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AN
ACCOUNT
OF
S U E D E N :

Together with an

E X T R A C T
OF THE

History of that KINGDOM.

*By a Person of NOTE, who resided many
Years there.*

The Third Edition.

L O N D O N :

Printed for T I M . G O O D W I N , at the
Queen's-Head against St. Dunstan's Church
in Fleetstreet. M D C C X V I I .

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T H E
P U B L I S H E R
T O T H E
R E A D E R.

TH E kind Reception which the Publick has given to a late Book, call'd, *An Account of Denmark*, (whereof Three Large Editions have come Abroad in less than Three Months) encouraged me to seek after an Account of *Sueden*: I found all Sorts of People desirous to be inform'd in the State of this other *Northern Crown*.

After diligent Enquiry, I was at last so Fortunate as to light on this Account in *Manuscript*, written some
few

The PUBLISHER

few Years ago by a very Able and Learned Gentleman ; and hearing that several Copies of it were got Abroad , I consider'd it might at last chance to come forth in Print less Correct than at present I undertake to give it the World, whom I pretend to oblige by a very Accurate Edition ; in-somuch that I hope the Author himself will not be offended at this Undertaking, since 'tis likely 'twould have been published by others, not so well to his Advantage.

You will find here a Relation of Matter of Fact only, though I will venture to say, a very Exact one ; and such as I doubt not but will be very Entertaining to the Reader.

What Shares the *Clergy*, the *Army*, or the *Court*, had in the Management of Affairs from Time to Time in *Sueden*, we have Reason to believe are faithfully delivered here ; the Ingenious *Author* of this Account being a Person of so known and establish'd a Reputation.

For

to the READER.

For so much as relates to my Publishing this Book, I confess ingenuously, 'tis as unknown to the Author, as his Person is to me; but his Candor, Parts, and Learning appear plainly enough by this Work, that he took great Care and Pains to compile it. If it prove to the Satisfaction of the Publick, as I doubt not but it will, I shall not lose my Labour, nor you the Pleasure and Benefit of it.

THE

T H E
C O N T E N T S.

	Pag.
Chap. I. O F Sueden in general,	i
Chap. II. Of the Provinces and Cities of Sueden,	10
Chap. III. Of the Laws of Sueden,	14
Chap. IV. Of the Natural Inclinations and Dispositions of the Suedes,	20
Chap. V. Of their Religion,	24
Chap. VI. Of the Universities of Sueden,	28
Chap. VII. Of their Marriages and Funerals,	30
Chap. VIII. Of the Royal Family, and Court of Sueden,	32
Chap. IX. Of the Government of Sueden,	37
Chap. X. Of the Privy Council,	49
Chap. XI. Of the States of Sueden,	50
Chap. XII. Of the Revenue of the Kingdom,	52
Chap. XIII. Of the Forces of Sueden,	54
Chap. XIV. Of the Trade of Sueden,	61
Chap. XV. Of the Suedish Conquests,	67
Chap. XVI. Of the Interest of Sueden,	69
Chap. XVII. An Extract of the History of Sueden,	72

The Reader is desired to take Notice, That the Figures [1] [2] [3], &c. in the Margin, denote the Beginning of each Page in the Edition referred to in the Letter to Sir J. B.

A N
A C C O U N T
O F
S U E D E N.

C H A P. I.

Of Sueden in general.

THE Dominions subject to the Crown of *Sueden* have in this and the last Age been so enlarged, by the Acquisitions, or (as some call them) Encroachments made upon all their Neighbours, that they do not properly fall under one General Description; the Qualities and Characters of some of its Provinces being as different as their Situation: So that the Short View here offer'd, will not reach the more distant Parts, but chiefly respects the Kingdom of *Sueden*, and Dukedom of *Finland*; which have the *Baltick*

B Sea

Sea on the South, the unpassable Mountains of *Norway* on the West, *Lapland* on the North, and *Muscovy* on the East; being extended from 56 to 69 Degrees of *Northern* Latitude, and from 32 to 55 in Longitude; and consequently are more than twice as big as the Kingdom of *France*: But the Abatements that must be made for several Seas, and many great Lakes, some whereof above 80 *English* Miles long, and 20 broad; as also for Rocks, Woods, Heaths, and Morasses, that cover very much of these Countries, will reduce the Habitable Part to a very small Portion, comparatively to the Extent of the whole.

[3] The Soil, in Places capable of Cultivating, is tolerably fruitful, tho' seldom above half a Foot deep; and therefore more easily Ploughed, as it frequently is, by one Maid and an Ox, and is generally best where there is least of it; that is, in the little Spaces between the Rocks: And frequently the Barren Land, enriched with the Ashes of Trees growing on the Places that are burnt, and the Seed raked among the Ashes, produces a plentiful Crop, without further Cultivation.

[4] This Practice is so ancient, that their Writers derive the Name of *Sweden* from a Word in their Language that expresses it; but the Danger of destroying the Woods, has of late occasion'd some Laws to limit that Custom.

If the Inhabitants were industrious, above what Necessity forces them to, they might at least have Corn sufficient of their own; but as Things are manag'd, they have not, nor can subsist without great Importations of all Sorts of Grain from the Countrey of *Leifland*, and other Parts of *Germany*, adjacent to the *Baltick* Sea: And notwithstanding these Supplies, the
poorest

pooreſt Sort, in many Places remote from Traffick, are ſain to grind the Bark of Birch-Trees, to mix with their Corn, and make Bread, of which they have not always Plenty.

The Cattel, as in all other *Northern* Countries, are generally of a very ſmall Size; neither can the Breed be better'd by bringing in larger from abroad, which ſoon degenerate; becauſe in Summer the Graſs is much leſs nourishing than in the Places from whence they came; and in the Winter they are uſually half-ſtarved, for want of Fodder of all kinds, which often falls ſo very ſhort, that they are forced to unthatch their Houſes to keep a Part of their Cattel alive. Their Sheep bear a very courſe Wool, only fit to make Cloathing for the Peaſants. The Horſes, eſpecially the *Finnish*, tho' ſmall, are hardy, vigorous, ſtrong, ſure-footed and nimble Trotters, which is of great Uſe to them, becauſe of the Length of their Winters, and their Fiteſs for Sleds, which is their only Carriage in that Seaſon: And the Soldiers do pretend, that in War they are not only able to reſiſt, but to break a Body of the beſt *German* Horſe.

[5]

Of Wild Beaſts; which are very plentiful in theſe Parts, Bears, Elkes, Deer, and Hares, are hunted for their Fleſh; as alſo, together with Wolves, Foxes, Wild Cats, &c. for their Furs and Hides. They hunt with leſs Ceremony than elſewhere is uſed, taking all Advantages to ſhoot their Game, at which they are generally very dextrous. Parks there are but few, and meanly ſtock'd; the Charge of feeding Deer all Winter exceeding the Profit, and abating the Pleaſure of them. There are no Rabbits in theſe Countries, but what are brought in for Curioſity, and kept Tame. In Winter Foxes and

[6]

Squirrels somewhat change Colour, and become grayish, but Hares turn white as Snow.

[7] Fowl both Wild and Tame are very plentiful and good in their Kind, except Sea Fowl, which feed and taste of Fish: The most common are *Orras* and *Keders*, the former of the Bigness of a *Hen*, the other of a *Turkey*; as also *Partridges*, and a Bird somewhat resembling them, called *Yerpers*. There are taken in Winter great Numbers of small Birds, as *Ibrushes*, *Blackbirds*, and *Sydenscwans*; the last of the Bigness of *Veldefares*, but better Meat, supposed to come from *Lapland*, or yet farther *North*; and have their Name from the Beautifulnes of their Feathers, some of which are tipped at the Point with Scarlet. Pigeons there are, those of the Woods very rare, because of the Hawks; and of the House-Pigeons none but what are kept Tame, because their Food is scarce, and the Danger of the Hawks great if they go Abroad. Eagles, Hawks, and other rapacious Fowl, abound most in the *Northern* and Desert Part, whither Nature seems to call them; as may be gathered from a Story credibly related, of a large Hawk, shot some Years ago in the *Northern* Parts of *Finland*, which had on one Leg a small Plate of Gold, with this Inscription, *Je Suis au Roy*; on the other, one of Silver, with these Words, *Duc de Chevereuse me garde*.

[8] The chiefest Lakes in *Sueden* are the *Vetter*, the *Wenner*, and *Maeler*; the first in *Ostrogothia*, remarkable for its foretelling of Storms, by a continual thundering Noise the Day before in that Quarter whence they arise; as also for the sudden breaking of the Ice upon it, which sometimes surprizes Travellers, and in half an Hour becomes Navigable: For its great Depth, in some Places above 300 Fathom, tho' no Part of the *Baltick* Sea exceeds 50; it supplies the River

Motala,

Motala, which runs through *Norcopingh*, where it has a Fall of about 30 Foot, and some Winters is so choak'd up with Ice, that for many Hours no Water passes. The Second is in *Westrogothia*, from which issues the River *Elve*, that, falling down a Rock near Sixty Foot, passes by *Gottenburgh*. The Third empties it self at *Stockholm*, furnishing one Side of the Town with Fresh Water, as the Sea does the other with Salt. These and Abundance of other Lakes, whereof many like Ponds have no Vents, and are called In-Seas, are not ill stored with Variety of Fish, *Salmon*, *Pikes*, *Perch*, *Tench*, *Trouts*, *Eels*, and many other Sorts unknown elsewhere, of which the most plentiful is the *Streamling*, a Fish less than a *Pilcher*, taken in great Quantities, and salted in Barrels, and distributed over all the Countrey. Besides, the *North-Bottom* or Bay that separates *Sueden* and *Finland*, abounds with *Seals*, of which a considerable Quantity of Train Oil is made and exported; and in the Lakes in *Finland* are vast Quantities of *Pikes*, which being taken, are salted, dry'd, and sold at very cheap Rates. [10]

These Lakes are of great Use for the Convenience of Carriages, both in Summer by Boats, and by Sleds in Winter; and among them, and on the Sea-Coasts, are almost innumerable Islands of different Sizes, whereof there are in *Sueden* above 6000 that are inhabited, the rest are either bare Rocks, or covered with Wood: *Gotland*, *Oland*, and *Aland*, are Isles of large Extent, one being Sixty Miles long, and the others little less.

Their Woods and vast Forests overspread much of the Countrey, and are for the most Part of Pines, Fir, Beech, Birch, Alder, Juniper, and some Oak; especially in the Province of *Bleaking*, the Trees growing in most Places so close together, [11]

ther, and lying to rot where they fall, that the Woods are scarce passable.

These afford a plentiful and cheap Firing, and being generally very strait and tall, are easily convertible into Timber, fit for all Uses. In the Parts near the Mines, the Woods are much destroyed, but that Want is so well supplied from distant Places by the Convenience of Rivers and Winter-Carriages, that they have Charcoal above Six Times as cheap as it is in *England*, tho' indeed it is not half so good.

[12] Of Mines in *Sueden*, there is one of Silver, into which Workmen are let down in Baskets to the first Floor, which is 105 Fathom under Ground; the Roof there is as high as a Church, supported by vast Arches of Oar; thence the Descent is by Ladders or Baskets to the lowest Mine, above Forty Fathom, where they now work. They have no Records so ancient as the first Discovery either of this or the Copper Mine, which must needs have been the Work of many Ages; the Oar seldom yields above 4 per Cent. and requires great Pain to refine it; they are also at the Charge of a Water-Mill to drain the Mine, and have the Benefit of another that draws up the Oar. It yearly produces about Twenty thousand Crowns of fine Silver, of which the King has the Pre-emption, paying one fourth less than the real Value. The Copper-Mine is about eighty Fathom deep, of great Extent, but subject to damage by the falling in of the Roof; yet that is sometimes recompenced by the Abundance of Oar that the ruined Pillars yield, though most commonly the Loss in that Case is very great; the Occasion of which Falls is attributed to the throwing the Earth and Stones, brought out, upon the Ground over the Mine, by which the Pillars become overcharged, and give way; and the Reason of
this

[13]

this is said to be, that the Profit arising to those that are concerned, is so little, that they are not able to work it off as they ought; and unless the King abates a considerable Part of the Profit arising to the Crown from this Mine, 'tis believed it will in a few Years be at a stand, especially if the Designs of making Copper, that are on foot elsewhere, do take any tolerable effect. The Copper yearly made out of this Mine, amounts to the Value of about Two hundred thousand pounds, of which the King has a Fourth Part, not by way of Pre-emption, but in Kind; besides, that upon the Remainder, he has a Custom of 25 per Cent. when it is exported unwrought. [14]

Lately a Gentleman of *Italy* came to *Sweden* with Proposals to make Copper a shorter and cheaper way than has hitherto been practised, as to make that in Five Days, which before required Three Weeks, and with one fifth part of the Charcoal, and with fewer Hands. The Bargain was made, and his Reward agreed to be a Hundred thousand Crowns; the first Proof he made succeeded to Admiration, but when he came to work in earnest, and had got his new-invented Ovens built to his Mind, the Miners, as he complained, pickt out the very worst Oar, and were otherwise so envious and untractable, that he failed of Success, and lost his Reward, and not without Difficulty obtained leave to buy Oar, and practise his Invention at his own Charge, as he now does. [15]

Iron-Mines and Forges are in great Numbers, especially towards the Mountainous Parts, where they have the Convenience of Water-falls to turn their Mills. From these, besides supplying the Country, there is yearly exported Iron to the Value of near Three hundred thousand Pounds. But of late Years, the Number of these Forges has

[16] has been so much increased, that each endeavouring to undersell others, the Price has been much lowered: And since the Prohibition of Foreign Manufactures (in Exchange of which, Iron was plentifully taken off) it is grown so cheap, that it is found necessary to lessen the Number of Forges; neither has that Contrivance had the Effect intended; but on the contrary, many more are like to fall of themselves, because they cannot work but to loss; in which Case many Thousands of poor People, whose Livelihoods depend upon these Forges and Mines, will be reduced to a starving Condition.

The Seasons of the Year, though regular in themselves, do not altogether answer those of other Climates, as a *French* Ambassador observed, who in Raillery said, There were in *Sweden* only
 [17] Nine Months *Winter*, and all the rest was *Summer*; for as *Winter* commonly begins very soon, so *Summer* immediately succeeds it, and leaves little or no Space to be called Spring. The Productions therefore of the Earth ought to be, as they are, more speedy in their Growth than in other Parts; the Reason of which seems to be, that the Oyl and Sulphur in the Earth (as it appears by the Trees and Minerals it produces) being bound up all the *Winter*, are then of a sudden actuated by the Heat of a warm *Sun*, which almost continually shines, and thereby makes amends for its short Stay, and brings to Maturity the Fruits proper to the Climate. Yet withal, its Heat is so intense, that it often sets the Woods on fire, which sometimes spreads it
 [18] self many Leagues, and scarce can be stopt till it come at some Lake, or very large Plain.

In the *Summer* Season the Fields are clothed with Variety of Flowers, and the whole Country overspread with Strawberries, Rasberries,
 Cur-

Currants, and the like, which grow upon every Rock. In their Gardens, Melons are brought to good Perfection in dry Years; but Apricocks, Peaches, and other Wall-Fruits, are almost as rare as Oranges; they have Cherries of several Sorts, and some tolerably good, which cannot be said of their Apples, Pears and Plumbs, that are neither common nor well-tasted; all Kinds of Roots are in plenty, and contribute much to the Nourishment of the poor People.

The Sun at highest is above the Horizon of *Stockholm*, Eighteen Hours and a half, and for some Weeks makes a continual Day. In *Winter*, the Days are proportionably shorter, the Sun being up but Five Hours and a half; which defect is so well supply'd as to Lights, by the Moon, and the Whiteness of the Snow, and Clearness of the Sky, that Travelling by Night is as usual as by Day; and Journeys begun in the Evening as frequently as in the Morning. The want of the Sun's Heat is repaired by Stoves within Doors, and warm Furs Abroad; instead of which, the meaner Sort use Sheep-skins, and other the like Defences; and are generally better provided with Cloathing, befitting their Condition, and the Climate they live in, than the common People of any Part of *Europe*, tho' where any Neglect or Failure happens, it usually proves fatal, and occasions the Loss of Noses, or other Members, and sometimes of Life; unless the usual Remedy to expel the Frost, when it has seized any Part, be early applied, which is to remain in the Cold, and rub the Part affected with Snow, till the Blood return to it again. [19]

What has been said in relation to *Sweden*, is in the main applicable to *Finland*, except only that hitherto no Mines have been discovered there. [20]

Its chiefest Commodities are Pitch and Tar, all Sorts of Wooden-Ware, dried Fish, Cattle, Train Oyl, &c.

[21] The Remainder also of this Discourse, in what relates to the Laws, Government, Customs, and Natural Dispositions of the People, equally belongs to them, with this Difference, that the *Finlanders* are rather more hardy and laborious, more clownish, ignorant, and superstitious than the *Suedes*.

[22]

CHAP. II.

Of the Provinces and Cities of Sueden.

[23] **T**HE Countrey is divided into Twenty Five Provinces, each of which is governed by an Officer, called *Landshofdingh*, whose Authority comprehends that of Lord Lieutenant and Sheriff together, except where there is a General Governor, as in *Finland*, and upon the Borders of *Denmark* and *Norway*, to whom the Governor of each Province is subordinate, and has thereby a more restrained Authority; these Officers are placed by the King, and take an Oath, to keep the Province for his Majesty, and his Heirs, to govern according to the Laws of *Sueden*, and such Instructions as they shall receive from his Majesty, and to quit the Province whenever he shall call them thence.

To them and their Subordinate Officers (who are all of the King's chusing) the Execution of judicial Sentences, the Collection of the King's
Re-

Revenues, the Care of Forests, Parks, and other Crown Lands, &c. is committed.

Of Cities, those of *Stockholm*, *Gottenburgh*, *Calmar*, and two or three more, may deserve that Name: The other Corporations, which in all make not an Hundred, scarce exceed some Villages in *England*; they are all governed by Burgo-masters, and Counsellors chosen by the King out of their own Body, or at least, such as are of the Quality of Burghers, no Gentleman accepting of those Employments. Their Offices and Salaries are for Life, or rather during their good Behaviour. The Privileges of Cities are derived from the King, and for the most part are owing to the Wisdom of *Gustavus Adolphus*, the Author of their best and most regular Constitutions at Home, as well as of their Glory Abroad. [24]

The City of *Stockholm* lies in 59 Degrees, 20 Minutes *North* Latitude, and about 41 Longitude. About 300 Years ago, it was only a bare Island with two or three Cottages for Fishers; but upon the Building of a Castle there, to stop the Inroads of the *Russians*, and the Translation of the Court thither, it grew by degrees to surpass the other more Ancient Cities, and it is at present the *Metropolis* of this Kingdom, and supposed to be as Populous as *Bristol*.

The Castle here, which is covered with Copper, is a Place of no Strength or Beauty, but of great Use, being a spacious Building, that, besides entertaining the Court, furnishes Room for most of the great Offices, the National Court of Justice, Colleges of War, Chancery, Treasury, Reduction, Liquidation, Commerce, Execution; as also an Armory, Chapel, Library, Archives, &c. It lodges very few of the Inferior Officers and Servants of the Court; they, together with the Foot-Guards, being quartered upon [25]

the Burghers at their Landlords Charge for Lodging, Fire and Candle.

In this City there are Seven large Churches built of Brick, and covered with Copper, besides Two more now building, and Three or Four Wooden Chapels.

- [26] The Palace of the Nobility, which is the Place of their Assembly at the Convention of Estates, and the Depository of their Privileges, Titles, and such other Records as concern their Body, is a very stately Pile; as is also the Bank, built at the City's Charge; which, together with several Magnificent Houses of the Nobility, are covered with Copper, and make a handsome Prospect: Most of the Burghers Houses are built of Brick, except in the Suburbs, where they are of Wood, and thereby exposed to the Danger of Fire; which commonly, when it gets to a head, destroys all before it, in the Quarter where it happens; to repair which Misfortune, they sometimes send the Dimensions of the House they intend to build into *Finland*, where the Walls and several Separations are built of Pieces of Timber laid one upon another, and joined at the Corners, and afterwards mark'd, taken down, and sent by Water to *Stockholm*, there to be set up and finish'd, and when they are kept in good Repair, will last Thirty or Forty Years, and are warmer, cleaner, and more healthful than those of either Brick or Stone. To prevent the Danger of Fire, the City is divided into Twelve Wards, and in each of these is a Master and Four Assistants, who upon notice of any Fire, are immediately to repair to it, as also all Porters and Labourers, and to range themselves under the Master of their respective Wards: There is also a Fire-Watch by Night, who walks about only to that Purpose; and in each Church-Steeple Watch is kept, and
a Bell

a Bell tolled upon the first Appearance of any Fire.

[28]

The Government of this City is in the Hands of the Great Stadtholder, who is also a Privy Counsellor, he sits once a Week in the Town-House, and presides also in the College of Execution, assisted by an under Stadtholder, and the Bailiff of the Castle ; next to him are the Four Burghmasters, one for Justice, another for Trade, the Third for the Polity of the City, and the Fourth has the Inspection over all Publick and Private Buildings, and determines such Cases as arise on that Account ; with them the Counsellors of the City always sit and give their Votes, the Majority of which concludes : Their Number is uncertain, but usually about Twenty, most Merchants and Shopkeepers, or such as have served the King in some Inferior Employments ; and besides their Salary they have an Immunity from such Impositions as are laid on the Inhabitants, to support the Government of the City, which pays all its Officers and Servants, and maintains a Guard of 300 Men, and defrays the Charge of all Publick Buildings and Repairs. To support this Expence, besides a Duty belonging to the City, upon Goods Imported and Exported, (which is about 4 per Cent. of the Customs paid the King, and amounts to about 4000 *l. per Ann.*) the Magistrates impose a Yearly Tax on the Burghers, in which they are assisted by a Common-Council of Forty Eight (which chuses its own Members,) and meets every Spring to proportion the Payments for the ensuing Year. On the Richer Traders they usually impose 40, 50, or 60 *l. sterling* ; and upon others of a meaner Condition, as Shoemakers, Taylors, &c. 5 or 6 *l.* and no Housekeeper less than 15 *s.* besides Quartering the Guards, Inferior Officers, and Servants of the Court, with other lesser Charges ;

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[30]

which

which all together, would be thought a great Burthen even in Richer Countries; neither is it otherwise esteemed by the Inhabitants of this City, who can scarce be kept in Heart by the Privileges they enjoy, as well in Customs, as in the Trade of the Place, which must needs pass through their Hands; the Natives of other Parts of the Kingdom, as well as Foreigners, being obliged to deal only with the Burghers, except those of the Gentry that make Iron, who have a Privilege to sell it immediately to Strangers.

[31]

This City is in a manner the Staple of *Sweden*, to which most of the Goods of their own Growth, viz. *Iron, Copper, Wire, Pitch, Tarr, Masts, Deals, &c.* are brought to be Exported. The greatest part of the Commodities imported from Abroad come to this Port, where there is a Haven capable of receiving 1000 Sail of Ships, and has a Bridge or Key near an *English* Mile long, to which the greatest Vessels may lie with their Broad-sides: The only Inconvenience is, That it is Ten Miles from the Sea, and the River very crooked, and no Tides.

[32]

C H A P. III.

Of the Laws of Sweden.

THE Laws of *Sweden* were anciently as various as the Provinces were numerous, each of which had Statutes and Customs peculiar to its self, enacted as occasion required by the Laghman or Governor of the Province, who was chosen by the People, and invested with great Au-

Authority, especially while the Kingdom was Elective, his Suffrage concluding the Province he governed. This Variety was necessarily attended with great Confusion ; for Remedy whereof, about Fourscore Years ago, one Body of Laws was compiled for the Direction of the whole Kingdom ; yet this Collection is but an imperfect Piece, and the Laws so few, and conceived in such general Terms, that in most Cases they need the Assistance of the Civil Law ; and after all, the final Determination depends much upon the Inclinations of the Bench ; which in a poor Country, where Salaries are small, is often filled with such as are of weak Parts, and subject to Corruption upon very small Temptations. The Effects of this would be more visible, if each Superior Court did not keep a Check upon the Lower, and the King's Court of Revision overawe them all, to which all Civil Causes importing the Sum of 70*l.* are appealable ; and very few end before they have been brought thither. In this Supreme Court, his Majesty very frequently sits with great Patience and Application ; and in Seven Years time has determined more Causes than the Senators did in Twenty before.

[33]

[34]

His Majesty is observed always to make a short Mental Prayer at first sitting down there.

In this Court the President of the Chancery, and two or three other Privy Counsellors, do also sit ; so does the Chancellor of the Court (an Officer next in Degree to a Privy Counsellor) who is President of the Under-Revision, where he and Two Secretaries do put Business into a Method fit to be brought before the King.

The Courts of Justice inferior to this, are of three Degrees: Of the lowest Degree or first Instance, there is one in each Corporation, (besides *Stockholm*, in which there are Three,) as also

[35] also in each District or Territory, whereof every Province contains several, some above Twenty ; in the former (Cities) an Alderman or Counsellor presides, and has some of his Brethren for Assistants ; in the latter, the Governor of the Territory, with a standing Jury ; his Court is *Ambulatory*, and usually kept near or upon the place where the Fact or Trespas was committed.

[36] In these Courts Examinations are taken, and Matters not exceeding Forty Shillings are determined, the rest transmitted to the next Superior Court, of which in every Corporation there is one, where the Burghmaster is President, and the Aldermen Assistants ; and so in every Province there is one or more of these Courts, the President whereof retains the Name of *Lagbman*, without other Authority than that of a Judge ; from these all Causes of Blood must be transmitted to the respective National Courts, where they are determined without further Appeal ; and thither also all Civil Actions, not exceeding 20 *l.* may be appealed ; of these National Courts there are Three, one for the Kingdom of *Sweden*, held at *Stockholm* ; another for the Kingdom of *Gothia*, kept at *Jencopingh* ; and a Third for the Dukedom of *Finland*, at *Abo* : In each of these a Privy Counsellor is President, and above half the Assessors are to be Gentlemen. All these Courts sit continually, or at most have but short Vacations ; and not being pestered with too much Formality, give Causes a speedy Dispatch, unless they be retarded by some under-hand Engagements.

[37] Actions relating to the Sea are triable in the ordinary Courts, according to their Sea-Laws, founded upon those Ancient ones of *Wisby* in *Gothland*, which have formerly been as famous in the *Baltick* Sea, as the Laws of the *Rhodes* and

Oleron in other Places. The Court of Admiralty has not any peculiar Jurisdiction in the Administration of these Laws, but only in such Matters as directly concern the King's Fleet, and in some Places that belong immediately to the *Admiralty*.

For Causes Ecclesiastical there is a Consistory in each Diocese, of which the respective Bishop is President; where Causes of Bastardy, Contracts of Marriage, and other Matters of that Nature are try'd; and Church-Censures of Penance, Divorce, &c. inflicted. These Courts have not Power to administer an Oath, nor to inflict any Corporal Punishment. From them there lies an Appeal to the respective National Court, and in some Cases to the King, as in all other Matters.

[38]

For Matters relating to the Mines, besides Inferior Courts, and Officers settled in the respective Parts of the Country, a General Court, called the College of the Mines, sits at *Stockholm*, of which most commonly the President of the Treasury is Chief; with a Vice-President, and other Assessors: The Laws in this Regard are more exact and particular than in other Matters, and for the most part Justice very carefully administered.

The Power of Executing all Judicial Sentences is lodged in the Governors of the Provinces; the Stadtholders of *Stockholm* and other Places, and from them derived to Inferior Officers, who are accountable to the National Courts: whether they may be convened and punish'd upon plain Proof of Default. But the Proof being difficult, and Ministers of Justice apt to favour each other, they take great Liberty to delay Execution, or to arbitrate, and put their own Sense upon Sentences; so that this Part of Ju-

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Justice is administered the worst of all others; and has an Influence not only at Home, but lessens the Credit of the *Suedish* Subjects Abroad, against whom Justice cannot be obtained without great Difficulty.

[40] The ordinary Charges of Law-Suits are nowhere more moderate than in *Sweden*; the greatest Burthen arising from a late Constitution, That all Declarations, Acts, and Sentences, must be written upon Seal'd Paper of different Prizes, from Two-pence to Seven Shillings a Sheet, according to the Quality of the Cause; the Benefit of which accrues to the King, and is computed to bring in about 3000*l.* a Year. Other Charges are very few; every Man being permitted (in Criminal Actions compelled) to plead his own Cause. Accordingly the Practice of the Law is below a Gentleman, and rather the Refuge than the Choice of meaner Persons, who are very few in Number, and for the most part very poor.

[41] The Custom of a Jury of Twelve Men is so ancient in *Sweden*, that their Writers pretend it had its Original among them, and was thence derived to other Nations; but at present it is disused every where, except only in the Lower Courts in the Country; and there the Jury-men are for Life, and have Salaries. They have this peculiar to themselves, That among them there must be an Unanimous Concurrence to determine a Cause, which in other Courts is done by a Majority of Voices.

Titles to Estates are render'd more secure, and less subject to Contests, by the Registers that are kept of all Sales and Alienations, as well as of other Engagements of them; the Purchaser running the Hazard of having an After-Bargain
take

take place of his, if he omit the Recording of his Transaction in the proper Court.

In Criminal Matters, where the Fact is not very evident, or where the Judges are very favourable, the Defendant is admitted to purge himself by Oath; to which is oftentimes added the Oath of Six or Twelve other Men, who are all Vouchers of his Integrity. [42]

Treason, Murther, Double Adultery, Burning of Houses, Witchcraft, and the like heinous Crimes, are punished with Death; which is executed by Hanging of Men, and Beheading of Women: To which, burning Alive or Dead, Quartering, and Hanging in Chains, is sometimes added, according to the Nature of the Crime. Criminals of the Gentry and Nobility are usually shot to Death.

The Punishment of Stealing is of late, instead of Death, changed into a Kind of perpetual Slavery; the Guilty Party being condemn'd to work all his Life for the King, in making Fortifications, or other Drudgery, and always has a Collar of Iron about his Neck, with a Bow coming over his Head, to which is a Bell fasten'd, that rings as he goes along. [43]

Duels between Gentlemen, if the one Party be kill'd, are punish'd with the Survivor's Death, and a Note of Infamy upon the Memory of both; if neither be kill'd, they are both condemned to a Prison, with Bread and Water for two Years, to which is added a Fine of 1000 Crowns, or one Year's Imprisonment and 2000 Crowns. Reparation of Honour, in Case of Affront, is referred to the respective National Court, where Recantation and Publick Begging of Pardon is usually inflicted.

[44] Estates, as well acquired as inherited, descend to the Children in equal Portions, of which a Son has two, and a Daughter one : Nor is it in the Power of the Parents to alter this Proportion without the Intervention of a Judicial Sentence, in case of their Children's Disobedience ; only they may bequeath a Tenth of their Acquired Possessions, to such Child or other as they will favour. Where an Estate descends encumbered with Debts, the Heir usually takes two or three Months Time, as the Law allows, to search into the Condition of the Deceased's Estate ; and then either accepts the Inheritance, or leaves it to the Law, which in that Case administers ; as lately, besides other Instances, was practised upon the Decease of the late *Rix Drost Count Magnus De la Gardier*, the King's Uncle.

C H A P. IV.

[45] *Of the Natural Inclinations and Dispositions of the Suedes.*

THE Nature of the Climate, which affords a very healthful and dry, as well as sharp Air, disposes the Natives to a vigorous Constitution, and that confirm'd by a hardy Education, course Fare, hard Lodging, &c. qualifies them to endure whatever uneasy Circumstances befall them, better than those that are born in a more moderate Countrey, and more indulgently bred.

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But on the other Side, it seems as if the Severity of the Clime should in a manner cramp the Faculties of their Bodies, and indispose them for any great Degree of Dexterity and Nimbleness : [46]
 And the same may be said in a great Measure of their Minds too, which seldom are found endued with any eminent Share of Vivacity, or Pregnancy of Wit ; yet by Industry, Experience, and Travelling, not a few of them arrive at a mature and solid Judgment ; being led by their Genius to serious Things, in which they that have Patience to go thro' with the Studies they apply themselves to, become excellent, and merit the Title of Great and Able Men : But this seems not to be the Talent of this Nation ; they being generally more apt to sit down with superficial Acquisitions, than to pursue their Studies to a fundamental Degree.

This Disposition of Body and Mind qualifies them more for a Life of Labour and Fatigue, than of Art and Curiosity ; and the Effect of it is visible in all Orders of Men among them. [47]

The Nobility mostly apply themselves to a Military Life, in which they are more Famous for Courage, and enduring Hardships, than for Stratagems and Intrigues. They that are employed in the Administration of Civil Affairs, though they are indeed laborious and indefatigable in their Business, yet they seldom raise their Speculations above what the Necessity of their Employments require, their Abilities proceeding not so much from Study, as Experience in the Tract of Business.

In Point of Learning, they, like their Neighbours the *Germans*, are more given to transcribe, and make Collections, than digest their own Thoughts ; and commonly proportion their Studies to their Occasions. [48]

In Matters of Trade, they more easily do the Drudgery, than dive into the Mystery, either of Commerce or Manufactures, in which they usually set up for Masters before they be half taught ; so that in all such things as require Ingenuity, Neatness or Dexterity, they are forc'd to be served by Strangers. Their common Soldiers endure Cold and Hunger, and long Marches, and hard Labour to Admiration ; but they learn their Duty very slowly, and are serviceable more by their Obedience to Command, and standing their Ground, than by any great Forwardness to attack their Enemy, or in Nimbleness and Address in executing their Orders ; and so their Peasants are tolerably Laborious when Need compels them, but have little Regard to Neatness in their Work, and are hardly brought to quit their old, slow, and toilsome Methods, for such new Inventions as are more dextrous and easy.

The Dispositions more peculiar to the several Degrees of these People, are, That the Nobility and Gentry are naturally Men of Courage, and of a Warlike Temper, have a graceful Deportment, inclined to value themselves at a high-rate, and make the best Appearance they possibly can, that they may gain the Respect of others ; and are therefore more excessive in the Number of their Attendants, Sumptuous Buildings, and rich Apparel, than in the Plentifulness of their Tables, or other less observ'd Occasions. They never descend to any Employments in the Church, the Practice of Law, or Physick, or the Exercise of any Trade ; and though to gain Experience in Maritime Affairs, they submit to the lowest Offices Abroad, yet at Home there is but one Example known of a Gentleman that accepted the Command of a Merchant's Ship.

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The Clergy are but moderately Learned, and little acquainted with the Disputes about Religion, as having no Adversaries to oppose; they affect Gravity, and long Beards; are esteemed for their Hospitality, and have great Authority among the common People. The Burghers are not very Intelligent in Trade, nor able to do their Business without Credit from Abroad; rather inclined to impose upon those they can over-reach, than follow their Calling in a fair way. [51] The Peasants, when sober, are very obsequious and respectful, but Drink makes them mad and ungovernable; most of them live in a very poor Condition, and are taught by Necessity to practise several Arts in a rude manner, as the making their Shoes, Cloaths, &c. the several Instruments of Husbandry, and other Necessaries, that they cannot spare Money to buy: And to keep them to this, as also to favour the Cities, it is not permitted to more than one Taylor, or other such Artisan, to dwell in the same Parish, though it be never so large, as many of them are above Twenty Miles in compass.

In general, it may be said of the whole Nation, that they are a People very Religious in their way, and constant Frequenters of the Church, eminently Loyal and affected to Monarchy, Grave even to Formality; Sober, more out of Necessity, than Principles of Temperance; apt to entertain Suspicions, and to envy each other, as well as Strangers; more inclined to pilfering, and such secret Frauds, than to such open Violences, as breaking of Houses, or robbing on the High-ways: Crimes as rarely committed in this, as in any Country whatever. [52]

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C H A P. V.

Of the Religion of Sweden.

CHRISTIANITY was not received into *Sweden*, till about the Beginning of the Ninth Century ; and not into *Finland*, till near Three Hundred Years after ; and if not first Preached, was at least first Established by *English* Divines ; of whom the chiefest was *St. Sigifrid* ; who, as their Histories relate, quitted the Archbishoprick of *York*, to become the Apostle of the *Goths*, as they stile him. With him, Three of his Nephews that he brought thither, were martyr'd by the *Heathen Goths*. So also was *St. Eskill*, and other *English*, by the *Suedes*. And about the Year 1150, *St. Henry*, an *English* Bishop, accompany'd *St. Erick*, King of *Sweden*, in his Expedition to *Finland* ; which the King conquer'd, and the Bishop converted into *Christianity* : He also was martyr'd by the Infidels, and lies buried at *Abo*, the Metropolis of that Country.

The *Reformation*, as well there as in *Denmark* and *Norway*, began soon after the Neighbouring Parts of *Germany* had embraced *Luther's* Tenets, and was established according to his Platform. The Tyranny of King *Christian* the Second, who then wore these Three Northern Crowns, gave an Opportunity to *Gustavus*, the Founder of the present Royal Family, both to alter Religion, and advance himself to the Regal Dignity, which till that time was *Elective*, but was then made *Hereditary* to his Family ; in which it has since continued ; as the *Lutheran* Religion has also done in the Country, never but once disturbed

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disturbed from abroad, and since that Disturbance never distracted at home with Non-Conformity ; all the Orders of Men agreeing in a constant Attendance on Divine Service, and a Zeal for their own Way, without any nice Enquiries into disputable Points, either in their own Tenets, or those of other Churches ; whereby it becomes the Business of their Preachers, rather to persuade the Practice of Piety, than to oppose the Doctrine of others, or defend their own.

The Church is governed by an Archbishop and Ten Bishops, whose Studies are confined to their own Employments ; being never called to Council, but only at the Assembly of the States, nor troubled with the Administration of any Secular Affairs. Their Revenues are very moderate ; the Archbishop of *Upsall* not importing 400 *l.* a Year, and the Bishopricks after that Proportion. Under them are Seven or Eight Superintendents, who have all the Power of Bishops, and only want the Name : And over each Ten Churches is a Provost, or Rural Dean, with some Authority over the Inferior Clergy ; of whom the Sum total may best be computed by the Number of Churches, which in *Sweden* and *Finland* is short of Two Thousand : To which the Addition of Chaplains and Curates will increase the Body of the Clergy to near Four Thousand Persons. They are all the Sons of Peasants, or mean Burghers, and can therefore content themselves with the small Income of their Places ; which, besides more inconsiderable Dues, arises from Glebe-Lands, and one Third of the Tythes, of which the other Two Thirds are annexed to the Crown, to be employ'd in Pious Uses. However, the Clergy have generally wherewithal to exercise Hospitality, and are the constant Refuge of Poor Travellers,

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especially Strangers, who use to go from Priest to Priest, as elsewhere from Constable to Constable.

[58] The Clergy of each Diocese, upon the Death of their Bishop, propose Three Persons to the King; who either chuses one of them, or some other, to succeed in that Office; which is also practis'd in the Choice of Superintendents. In the Choice of an Archbishop, all the Chapters in the Kingdom vote, but the Determination is altogether in the King's Breast. His Majesty hath also the Patronage of most Churches, some few only being in the Disposal of the Nobility. Many of their Churches are adorn'd with Variety of Sculptures, Painting, Gilding, &c. All of them are kept neat and clean, and in good Repair, furnish'd as well in Country as City with Rich Altar-Clothes, Copes, and other Vestments.

[59] For the more regular Government of the Church, it has been found necessary to cause the Ancient Ecclesiastical Laws and Canons to be revised by a Committee chosen out of the several Bodies of the Estates, who have spent some Years in that Matter, and at last presented the King with a New System of Church Laws; wherein His Majesty, having caused such Alterations to be made as he thought fit, has lately approved and publish'd them.

Of these, some that concern their Religion in general, shall here be taken notice of. By these New Canons it is ordain'd, That

‘ If any *Swedish* Subject change his Religion,
 ‘ he shall be banish'd the Kingdom, and lose all
 ‘ Right of Inheritance, both for himself and his
 ‘ Descendants.

‘ If any continue Excommunicated above a Year, he shall be imprisoned a Month with Bread and Water, and then banish’d.

‘ If any bring into the Country Teachers of another Religion, he shall be fin’d and banish’d. [60]

‘ Foreign Ministers shall enjoy the Free Exercise of their Religion, only for themselves and Families.

‘ Strangers of a different Religion shall have no Publick Exercise of it; and their Children shall be baptized by *Lutheran* Ministers, and educated in that Religion; otherwise they shall not have the Privileges of *Suedish* Subjects.

These Laws, as they oblige the Clergy to a more constant Attendance on all the Parts of their Duty than has formerly been practis’d, so they require the Laity to frequent the Church on all Occasions: And the Civil Magistrates, especially on Days of great Solemnity, make very strict Search, and punish such as are found absent from Church without a just Excuse, with Imprisonment, and other Severities. But the Clergy are not intrusted with the sole Administration of these Laws, nor impower’d by them to transact Matters of any great Moment, without the Concurrence of the Civil Power: For besides that many Causes, formerly Triable in Ecclesiastical Courts, are now transferr’d to the Secular Magistrates, the King reserves to his own Cognizance several Cases of that kind, especially the Point of *Excommunication*, which the Clergy are not permitted to pronounce against any one, till the King hath been acquainted with the Case, and gives Leave; which Caution is used because of the Consequence, which is, the Loss of a Subject. [61]

C H A P. VI.

[63] *Of the Universities of Sueden.*

LEARNING, whatever their Modern Writers pretend, can plead no great Antiquity in this Countrey; the Institution of an University at *Upsall* being not above Three Hundred Years ago; and few Monuments extant of a more Ancient Date, but only Funeral Incriptions, rudely cut upon Rocks and unhewn Stones, which are every where found; but as they have no Date, so they seldom express more than the Names of Persons, of whom no other Memory remains. That which makes them most remarkable is, That they are writ in the Ancient *Gothick* Language, and the *Runick* Character.

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The most Curious Piece of Learning among them, is a Translation of the Evangelists into the *Gothick* Tongue, done about Twelve or Thirteen Hundred Years ago, by *Ulphila*, a Bishop of the *Goths* in *Thracia*; of which they have the sole Ancient Manuscript Copy that is known to be in the World. Since the Reformation, *Gustavus Adolphus* was the first great Patron Learning had in this Countrey; by whom the Universities, that had been much impair'd, were endow'd with tolerable Salaries for Professors in most Sciences. These his Daughter, Queen *Christina*, somewhat augmented; and by the Fame of her own Learning, and the favourable Reception she gave to Scholars, drew several Learned Men from Abroad, that have left good Proofs of their Abilities, and raised an Emulation in the Natives; whose best Performance is
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in the History, Antiquities, and Ancient Laws of the Countrey.

The University of *Upsall* consists of a Chancellor; who is always a great Minister of State; a Vice-Chancellor, always the Archbishop; a Rector, chosen out of the Professors, of whom there are about Twenty that have each 150 *l.* a Year Salary. The ordinary Number of Students is about Seven or Eight Hundred; Fifty of which are maintain'd by the King, and some few others were formerly by Persons of Quality; the rest, that cannot subsist of themselves, spend the Vacation in gathering the Charity of the Diocese they belong to, which is commonly given them in Corn, Butter, dry'd Fish or Flesh, &c. upon which they subsist at the University the rest of the Year. They live not Collegiately, but in Private Houses; nor wear Gowns, nor observe other Discipline, than what their own Necessity or Disposition leads them to. [66]

The other University of *Abo*, in *Finland*, is constituted in the same Manner, but less Numerous in Professors and Students.

There was a Third at *Lunden* in *Schonen*, which having been interrupted by the late Wars, is thought fit to be discontinued, because its Neighbourhood to *Denmark* nourish'd in the Students an Affection for that Crown, to which that Province formerly appertain'd; yet it is again restor'd. [67]

In each Diocese there is one Free-School, where Boys are fitted for the University; and other trivial Schools, to which Children are sent to learn to Read, Write, and Sing their Prayers; a Custom so universal, that very few of them want this Degree of Education; and further than that, such as are not design'd for Studies, do

very seldom go, nor waste their Time in other needless Improvements.

[68] Publick Provisions for the Poor, are very few ; there's not above Five or Six Hospitals in the Kingdom, and a little Alms-house in each Parish, maintain'd by the Charity of the Inhabitants ; to which for the most Part they are very well disposed, according to their Abilities.

[69]

C H A P. VII.

Of their Marriages and Funerals.

[70] **M**arriages in *Sweden* are totally govern'd by the Will of the Parents, and founded so much upon Interest, that the Inclination of the Parties is little regarded, nor the Nation much troubled with the Extravagancies of Lovers : Stealing of Matches is scarce heard of in an Age ; nor can the Church give License to Marry, without Publication of the Banns : Persons of Quality of both Sexes commonly remain unmarried till Thirty or above, because their Fortunes on both Sides being in their Parents Hands while they live, they are not in a Condition to maintain a Family, till the Death of Relations, or Advancement to Office, furnish them with the Means of subsisting. The Women, while young, have generally fair Complexions, tolerable Features, and good Shapes ; and some of them are accounted more eminent for Chastity before Marriage, than Fidelity after : They are very fruitful, and seldom fail of a numerous Issue : They are nowhere made greater Drudges than here, the meaner Sort being, besides the ordinary Offices of their Sex, put to Plow and Thrash, to row in Boats,

and

and bear Burthens at the Building of Houses, and on other Occasions.

Domestick Quarrels rarely happen, and more seldom become Publick ; the Husbands being as apt to keep the Authority in their own Hands, as the Wives by Nature, Custom, or Necessity, are inclin'd to be Obedient : Divorces, and other Separations between Man and Wife, scarce ever happen, but among the Inferior Sort, when the Innocent Party is allowed to marry again : Cousin-Germans may not marry without the King's Dispensation, which is more frequently granted than refused. [71]

In Wedding-Entertainments they have ever affected Pomp and Superfluity beyond the Proportion of their Abilities ; for by the Excess of one Day, oft-times many of them involve themselves in such Inconveniencies as they feel many Years. The same is observable in their Funeral Solemnities, which are usually accompanied with more Jollity and Feasting than befits the Occasion ; and to gain time to make their Preparations, they commonly transport their Dead to Vaults within, or adjoining to their Churches, where they remain unburied some Months, and sometimes several Years ; but of late, these and other unnecessary Expences begin by degrees to be laid aside, as well in Conformity to the Frugality of the Court, as in Compliance with their present Fortunes, which are narrower now than they have formerly been. [72]

C H A P. VIII.

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Of the Royal Family, and Court of Sweden.

CHARLES XI. the present King of Sweden, was born *November* the 25th, 1655. two Years after his Father, *Charles Gustave X.* of the House of *Deux Ponts*, was advanced to the Crown, upon the Abdication of Queen *Christina*, whose Cousin-German he was, being the Son of *John Casimir*, Prince Palatine of the *Rhine*, and *Catherine* of Sweden, Daughter to *Charles IX.*, and Sister to *Gustavus Adolphus*, Queen *Christina's* Father. This King's Mother, Princess *Hedwig Eleonora*, of the House of *Holstein*, and Sister to the present Duke, had no other Child, and upon the Decease of the King her Husband, in the Year 1660, was made *Regent* of the Kingdom, together with the five Great Officers of the Crown, and held that Post till the Year 1672, when the King, her Son, was declared Major, and took the Government.

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His Majesty's Education in his Minority, by his own Genius, and the Indulgence of his Mother, (if not by the Contrivance of the Principal Ministers) was mostly in order to a Military Life; in which Exercises, such as Fencing, and Riding the Great Horse, he took more Pleasure, and made better Proficiency, than in such Studies as required more Intention of the Mind. Besides the *Suedish* and *High-Dutch* Languages, which his Majesty learned in his Infancy, and speaks both equally well, he was not perfected in any other, having only a smattering of *French*, to which he hath so great an Aversion, that he will
neither

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neither own, nor be brought to speak so much of it as he understands; which Want concurring with (if not causing in him) a reserved Temper, and backwardness to Conversation with Strangers, makes it more difficult for Foreign Ministers to entertain his Majesty, and himself uneasy upon their Addresses.

None ever better conquered this Difficulty, than Mr. *Warwick*, who, having learned a little *Higb-Dutch*, with which he entertain'd his Majesty in ordinary Discourse, without much Mixture of Business, he thereby became the Favourite Foreign Minister, and had the Honour to be singled out by his Majesty on all Occasions. [76]

In the Year 1674, his Majesty was Crowned, and presently after engaged in a War that gain'd him an eminent D egree both of Experience and Honour, having never lost a Battel in which he was personally present.

At the Conclusion of the War, *Anno* 1680, he married the Princess *Ulrica Eleonora*, Sister to the King of *Denmark*, a Lady as Eminent for Piety, Virtue, Wisdom, and all other Qualities truly Great and Noble, as for her Birth and Extraction. These, with her great Charity to the Poor, and Liberality to all, have gain'd her the Hearts of the whole Nation, and surmounted the Aversion they naturally have to those of her Country. By her his Majesty hath already had Seven Children; Five Princes, Four of which are Dead; and Two Princesses, and has fair Hopes of a more numerous Issue. [77]

The King is of a Middle Stature, and well-set, his Hair brown, of a healthful and vigorous Constitution, and Sanguine Complexion, never attacked with any violent Sickness, but what has been occasion'd by some outward Accidents; of which, two especially have endangered his Life:

One was in the War, when his Majesty riding on the Ice, it brake, and he fell into the Water, which brought him into a Fever, that he narrowly escaped. The other happened by the Fall off his Horse, when he broke his Leg, and was so ill treated by his Surgeons, that besides the Danger of his Life then, the Effects of their Miscarriage are still seen in his Majesty's halting. [78] There have happen'd to him two Accidents more, which have impaired his Strength, and it's fear'd may shorten his Days. One was, That at Hunting, Monsieur *Wachmaster* being in danger to be kill'd by a Bear, the King was so eager to rescue him, that he broke a Vein, and was then like to have bled to Death, and since hath been subject to Bleeding upon any Motion. The other was, That his Majesty hath formerly accustomed himself to ride Post such long Stages, and with so great Speed, that he hath often been near suffocated by the Heat, the Expence of his Spirits, and the Agitation of his Blood; whereof the Effects are still observed, and feared by those about him.

[79] He possesses many Excellent and Princely Qualities; an Exemplary Piety, and Religious Disposition, that shews its self in all his Actions; and invincible Courage, that has oft exposed his Person to great Dangers, not only in his Wars, but in his Divertisements.

His Chastity and Temperance are very regular at least; if there be any Instances of his failing in the latter upon any extraordinary Occasion or Entertainment, he hath never been known, or scarce suspected to violate the former.

Frugality is practis'd by his Majesty in a high Degree, and his Parsimonious Temper appears on all Occasions; that if his Subjects think him too pressing for Money, they have the Satisfaction to

to see and believe that it is laid either out, or up for their Good, not expended in profuse Liberalities, or vain Divertisements, to which his Majesty is a perfect Stranger; neither delighted with Plays, Gaming, or any other Recreations, besides Riding, Fencing and Hunting.

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His peaceable Demeanor may perhaps more justly be ascribed to the State of his Affairs, than his own Nature, which more powerfully inclines him to the Fatigue of a Camp, than the Ease of a Court; and suits better with a Martial Familiarity, than the Shews of Grandeur, and the Solemnities of State. The cholerick Temper that hath been incident to all his Ancestors, hath sometimes carried him to low Expressions of his Anger, as well towards the greater as meaner sort of his Subjects; but the Fit is usually soon over, and is recompenced by his Placability and Readiness to forgive those that have offended him.

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His Respect to his Mother seems to equal, if not exceed his Kindness to his Consort; who hath the Satisfaction of his Constancy, but little Share in his Secrets, and not very much of his Conversation, which he frequently bestows on the Queen-Mother, and usually eats in her Apartment.

His Majesty's most diligent Inspection into all the Affairs of his Kingdom, besides that it makes all his Ministers more circumspect, hath gain'd him a great stock of Experience. The smallest Matters are not below his Notice, and nothing of any Moment is concluded, before he hath been consulted. This is the Employment of all his Time; scarce any Hour of the Day passing, from Five in the Morning, when he constantly rises, in which Business of one nature or other is not before him.

[82]

The Frugality of his Majesty's Temper is every where visible in his Court; in which there is little Regard had to Splendor and Magnificence, either in Furniture, Tables, or Attendants, or other Things of that Nature. The Principal Officer of the Court is the Upper Marshal, formerly called the Marshal of the Kingdom; which Office is now held by Count *John Steenbeck*; next to him are the Marshal and Intendant of the Court, with about Eight or Ten that are stiled Gentlemen of the Court, who wait at the King's Table. That which makes the best Appearance, is the Foot-Guards, which consist of 2200 Men, of which one Company is always in the Castle, and the other in the other Parts of the City. The Colonel of the Guards is next the King's Person in all Publick Solemnities; and the Captain that has the Watch, lies in the Room next to his Majesty's Bed-Chamber. There is another Guard of 250 Men, of which about Ten at a Time wait on Foot with Halberts, and on Horse-back when the King travels in Ceremony.

Next to the King, the Queen-Mother is ranked both in the Addresses of *Foreign* Ministers, and on all other Occasions.

She is a Princess of great Virtue and Goodness, and would be more esteemed if she were not diverted from the Exercise of Liberality, by the Inclination she has to Building; which she has gratified in the Structure of a very Magnificent House, about Six Miles from *Stockholm*. It has one Front towards a great Lake, and the other looks upon a Garden of a Thousand Yards long, adorned with very fine and choice Statues, the Spoils of *Germany* and *Denmark*, and a great Number of *Cascades*, that are supplied with very good

good Water from an Eminence about a Mile distant.

Her Court and Revenue is govern'd by Count *Charles Gyldenstern*; and next to him is the Marshal of her Court, and other Officers; as also a Governess of the Maids of Honour, who are six, with other Inferior Servants.

The Queen Consort, besides what has already been said of her, is a great Lover of Reading, and, together with the *Northern* Languages, speaks *French* perfectly well. She is of a melancholy Disposition, and lives very retired, seldom stirring out of her own Apartment, and that of the Prince and Princesses. [85]

The Elder Princess was born in the Year 1681, and the Prince in the Year following; both of a delicate Constitution, of great Hopes, and educated with much Care. The Younger Princess was born *Anno* 1688.

C H A P. IX.

Of his Majesty's Government.

[86]

HIS Majesty was no sooner Crowned, but he found himself engaged in the War then on foot; and espoused the *French* Interest, in Consideration of a Subsidy of 200000 *l.* a Year: In which, the first Blow was the Defeat of *Feldt* Marshal *Wrangel* and his Army in *Germany*; a Disaster so little foreseen, or provided for, that it made a more easy way for all the Miseries that ensued upon it, and gave the King more eminent Occasions of shewing his Courage in Defence of his Kingdoms and People: For as the
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[87] Success of that Action turned the Byass of the *Danish* Councils, and presented the favourable Opportunity they expected, to engage in the War; which they began with the Surprizal of *Holstein*, and the Taking of *Wismar*, and thence translated it into *Schonen*; so that when the King was called into those Parts, to make Head against the *Danes*, he found the Effects of his Ministers Deficiency in making due Preparations; Four of the Six Fortified Places of that Province being already in the Enemies Hands, and the Inhabitants at liberty to express their Affections for *Denmark*.

[88] To encounter these Difficulties, and a more Potent Enemy assisted by more Powerful Confederates, the King at first had but a Handful of Men, and empty Magazines: The Forces of the Kingdom being scatter'd into *Germany* and *Leifland*, the Borders of *Norway*, and the Sea-Service; from all which Places his Majesty received nothing but Accounts of Losses and Misfortunes; so that the Fortune of *Sueden*, and all its Ancient Glory, seem'd to be confin'd to his Majesty's Person and his little Army, with which in the Compass of one Year he won Three Pitch'd Battels; and in one of them he is said to have Charged Thirteen times at the Head of a Brigade; and yet, which is very remarkable, doth value himself for not having drawn the Blood of any one Man.

[89] In the Course of this War the King gain'd a great Stock of Military Experience, without any Tincture of those Vices that commonly prevail in a Camp; and was so indefatigable, and perpetually employ'd, that he scarce had his Boots off in Three Years time. The Streights he was often reduc'd to, taught him many excellent Lessons, especially the Necessity of putting the
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Kingdom into a better Posture of Defence than he found it. Besides, his Officers, with the Chief Ministers about him, Baron *John Guldenstiern*, made it their Business to possess his Majesty with an ill Opinion of the Senate, and discover'd the Malversations that the Ruling Lords had been guilty of in his Minority: Which sunk so deep with him, that as his Displeasure fell upon some of those Lords during the War, and a Slight upon them all; neither communicating his Counsels, nor acquainting them with the Success of his Actions, which they were left to learn from Passengers and Masters of Ships; so after the Conclusion of the Peace, and his Return to *Stockholm* in the Year 1680, his Majesty call'd together the States of the Kingdom, and gave them a Summary Account of the State of Affairs during the War, and the Issue of it; and propos'd to them to inspect the Occasions of the great Losses the Kingdom had sustain'd, to find out Means to deliver the Government from the Streights (or rather States) it laboured under, and to consult for its further Security.

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The *Odium* of all the Losses and Misfortunes of the War, was easily fix'd upon the Ministers that had managed Affairs in the King's Minority. And therefore a Committee was chosen out of the several Bodies of the States, to enquire into the Miscarriages and Evil Counsels of those Ministers, and pass Sentence upon the Delinquents: And to this End the Registers of the Council were examin'd, the Damage arising from each Resolution computed, and every Senator that had voted therein, was charged with his Proportion of it; and that with so much Rigor, that their whole Estates have not sufficed to make Satisfaction. To this the States also found, that the Power the Senators attributed

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to themselves, had helped to produce these bad Effects; and therefore declared, That as they, the States; needed no such Mediators between the King and them; so neither did they
 [92] find, that the Article of his Majesty's Coronation-Oath, (in which he had promised to rule the Kingdom with the Advice of the Senators) did oblige him to think it necessary any longer to have their Concurrence to any Counsels he thought fit to take; or continue their Salaries to more of them than he was pleased to employ: Upon which several of them were laid aside; and the rest, instead of their former Title of Counsellors, or Senators of the Kingdom, were stiled the King's Counsellors; a Method which perhaps in time may cost the Crown dear, there being left none to bear the Burthen between the King and the Complainants. And to give greater Strength to this, the States declared also, That
 [93] though the Regents, during a Minority, might be called to Account for their Administration; yet his Majesty, who received his Crown from God, was only accountable to God for his Actions, and tied by no other Engagements than what his Coronation-Oath imported; namely, To rule the Kingdom according to Law: Which Article was further explain'd in the following Convention.

To remedy the great Necessities the Government was reduc'd to, and discharge the vast Debts contracted in the War, several very important Conclusions were made; for both, a very large Benevolence was granted, towards which every Person in the Kingdom, that receiv'd Wages, paid the Tenth Penny; every whole Farm Five Crowns, which is near as much as the usual Rent of those Farms; and the Cities a proportionable Contribution; and that for Two Years, or
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if a War happen'd, for Four. And a Resolution was taken to establish a New College of Reduction, with Power to reunite to the Crown all such Lands, as by former Kings had been alienated by way of Donation, or sold at an under Value.

The Choice of the Members of this College, and the Particulars of their Instructions were left to his Majesty; the States only prescribing some General Bounds, and especially providing, That of such Lands as were to be reunited, the Value of 70*l.* a Year should be left to the Possessor.

The Care of the future Security of the Kingdom the States recommend to his Majesty, praying him to make such an Establishment of the Militia, and Preparation of the Fleet and Fortresses, as should appear needful: So favourable was this Conjunction for the Advancement of the King's Authority, that he scarce needed to ask whatever he desired; each Body of the States striving which should out-bid the other in their Concessions. The Nobility and Gentry, who universally depend on the King, as not being able to subsist upon their own private Fortunes, without some Additional Office, were under a Necessity to comply with every thing, rather than hazard their present Employments, or future Hopes of Advancement: Their Interest therefore obliged them to keep Pace with the Officers of the Army that sat in their House, and some others of their Brethren, who vigorously promoted the King's Affairs.

The Clergy, Burghers and Peasants, were easily persuaded, That the Miseries they had suffered, proceeded from the too great Power of the Nobility; That the King could never be too much trusted; his Majesty having so oft exposed

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sed his Life to the greatest Dangers in Defence of his Subjects, it was their Duty to make all the Grateful Returns they were able: Besides, they were glad of an Occasion of humbling the Nobility, who in Prosperity were always imperious; and concluded, that the Burthen falling upon them, would redound to their own Ease.

[97] These Dispositions of the People, added to the excessive Affection they had for the King's Person, from an Opinion of his Piety, and Admiration of his Courage, gave him an Opportunity to lay the Foundations of as *Absolute a Sovereignty*, as any Prince in *Europe* possesses. The Project of which great Alteration, his Majesty (as was supposed) received from Baron *John Gyldenstiern*, a Minister of Great Abilities, and as great an Enemy to the Senate: He had waited on the King in the War, and drawn to himself the Management of all weighty Affairs, and perhaps expected to hold the same Post upon this Great Revolution, which in the former Constitution he could not hope: But before this Assembly, and soon after his Return from an Embassy in *Denmark*, he died, not without Suspicion of foul Play.

[98] Upon these Foundations, his Majesty, after the Separation of the States, set his Ministers earnestly to work, and with an Unwearied Application took Cognizance of their Proceedings.

Foreign Affairs were committed to Count *Benedict Oxenstiern*, Monsieur *Ebrenstien*, and Monsieur *Gernstedt*, Persons of great Experience and Abilities. The Count began to be employ'd in Publick Affairs at the Treaty of *Munster*; at which he was for some time, and has since been for the most part in Embassies, especially in *Germany*, and was then return'd from the Treaty of

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Nimeguen, where he had ('tis said upon his Lady's Account) entertain'd a violent Aversion to *France* : And being made President of the Chancery in the room of Count *Magnus de la Gardie*, who was laid aside, he took Care to give his Majesty the same Impressions ; laying before him how that Court, by Corrupting his Ministers, had engag'd *Sweden* in the War of which his Majesty had felt the Miseries, and was forced to sit down with the Loss of some Territories in *Germany*, besides Forty Sail of good Ships, and above 100000 Men ; all which might either have been prevented, or repair'd, if *France* had not sacrific'd *Sweden* to its own Interest : That the Subsidy was rather distributed by *French* Commissaries, and employ'd in their own Service, than paid to his Majesty ; who oft-times, in his greatest Need, could not be supplied out of that Fund : That his Majesty could neither be Master of his own Councils, nor make any tolerable Figure in *Europe*, so long as he was esteem'd a Pensioner, and a Mercenary.

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These, and the like Reasons, moved the King to command each Member of the Privy Council to put in Writing what Measures they thought advisable for him to take, in relation to Foreign Affairs ; in which some of them argued very warmly for *France* ; but the Reasons on the other Side were more prevalent with his Majesty, who thereupon took such Resolutions as produced the *Guaranty League* with *Holland*, and other Counsels that *Sweden* has since pursu'd.

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For the Management of Affairs at Home, his Majesty employed Baron *Claudius Flemingb* ; whose Father having been ill used by the Regents in the King's Minority, had left him several Projects that fell in with the Designs on Foot, and enabled him to go thro' with the Reduction

[101] of Crown-Lands, being made President of that College, and assisted with a competent Number of Assessors. He began to examine the Titles of those that held any Lands that had formerly belonged to the Crown; and where any such were found to have been alienated by way of Donation for pretended Services, or were situated in forbidden Places, (that is, within Six Miles of any of the King's Castles) they were reunited to the Crown without further Dispute; the Value of 70*l. per An.* being reserved to the Possessor. As to Crown-Lands that had been sold, Enquiry was made into the Nature of the Price, and the real Value of the Estate. Where Ready Money had been paid, the Interest of 5 *per Cent.* was allowed for it; and if the Yearly Value of the Estate exceeded that Interest, the

[102] said Overplus, and the Interest of it at 8 *per Cent.* from the first Alienation, was computed, and frequently made to amount to as much as the Capital it self; which being by that means satisfied, the Estate return'd to the King. Where Lands had been given in Payment of Arrears, there no Interest was allow'd, the Capital being accounted unfruitful: So that the Yearly Value of such Lands, together with the Interest, was deducted from the Principal; which being soon eaten out, not only the Lands return'd to the King, but the Possessor also became indebted to him; and he was to accept it as an Act of Grace, if his Majesty took the Lands, and forgave the Debt.

[103] By these Methods the King recover'd a very great Revenue, tho' with the Impoverishing of most Families in *Sweden*, and many of them such, whose Ancestors and themselves also had spent their Lives and Fortunes in the Crown's Service; which Considerations could not be regarded, nor

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Exceptions made in Favour of any in particular, without adding to the Discontents of all the rest, who more patiently suffer'd, while the Case was general.

The same Baron *Flemingh* was also made President of the Treasury, and of the College of Liquidation; a Court erected not only to be a Barrier to the Treasury, and keep all Creditors off, till their Accounts were first stated and approved in that College; but his Business was also to find out such as were any ways indebted to the King, to form the Charge against them, and demand Payment, which was not to be refused upon pretence (as it sometimes was the Case) that the Party had greater Sums due from the Crown, but the King's Debt was to be paid first, and without any delay, and the Party left to state his Accounts afterwards in the College of Liquidation. And wherein such Acts were used towards many, by making (as they call them) Observations upon the Price, the Time of delivering the Species of Money, and the like, that several of the King's Debts have been paid without a Farthing of Money, and not a few Pretenders have thereby been made Debtors to the King, and Payment extorted with great Rigor.

[104]

The Payment of the Fleet, his Majesty committed to Baron *Hans Watchmeister*, (in the place of the Great Admiral, Count *Steenbeck*) who prevailed to have it removed from *Stockholm*, its ordinary Station, to a Harbour fortified for that purpose in the Province of *Bleaking*, and named *Carlsrone*, as being both nearer to *Denmark*, and *Germany*, earlier free from Ice in the Spring, and the Parts adjacent abounding with Timber. In that, and other Places, great Diligence was used, both to repair the Old Ships, which amounted not to Twenty Sail, and to build new ones, of which

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which since that time, about Twenty from Eighty to Forty Guns; and Eight or Ten of less Force, have been built by Two *English*, and other Master builders.

[106] The Establishment of the *Militia*, his Majesty made his own peculiar Care, as having more immediately felt the Effects of the Disorder it had been in, and learnt by Experience the Necessity of such a standing Force, as might answer the Ends of its Institution.

In what manner his Majesty proceeded herein, shall be shown in another place.

In this Interval, his Majesty published several new Laws; one against Duels, the Substance of which is already mentioned; another to fix the Right of Precedency among the Nobility and Officers; wherein next after the Privy-Counsellors, the Soldiers are principally considered; each considerable Office being ranked according to its Dignity and Precedency, determined according to that Rank, without any Respect to Birth or Quality.

[107] At the next Assembly of the States in the Year 1683, besides a Benevolence equal to that granted the last Sessions, his Majesty obtained such farther Advantages, as the Ends he designed did require; for not only the *Re-union* of the 70 l. a Year reserved by the former Session, was consented to, and that without the least Difficulty, because those of the Nobility that had lost most, did thereby revenge themselves of the Officers of the Army: And others, who had been the great Sticklers in the Reduction, by which themselves had lost little or nothing, if the Reservation of 70 l. *per Annum* had stood; but the Article of *Ruling the Kingdom according to Law*, was also further explained, and the States declared, That his Majesty was not thereby tied to the Laws then in being,

being, but might alter the same, and add there-
 to such Constitutions, as he thought most useful
 for the present State of the Kingdom; and that
 whatever Instructions he pleased to give any
 College or Officer, the same were a Law to [108]
 them, and all others that they concerned; adding
 only this, That they hop'd his Majesty would
 communicate to the States such Laws as were of
 a general Nature, and intended to be binding to
 the whole Kingdom. And whereas his Majesty
 had laid before the States, the undue Proceedings
 of the Ministers at his Father's Death, whose
Testament they rescinded, and alter'd the Frame
 of the Government he had prescribed to be ob-
 serv'd in the King's Minority; the States declar-
 ed, That the Authors of those Alterations were
 no honest *Patriots*, and left them to the King's
 Justice, promising that in case of his Majesty's
 Decease, during his Successor's Minority, they
 would see his Testament punctually fulfilled, and
 the Form of Government thereby prescribed, in- [109]
 violably observed.

The next Assembly of the States in 1686, re-
 newed the usual Benevolence which was asked
 to enable the King to pay his Debts, and made
 some further Concessions in the Matter of the
Re-union, rather to take off the Odium from the
 King and his Ministers, than to add any Autho-
 rity to his Majesty's Proceedings.

These and the like Concessions have rendred
 his Majesty an Absolute Monarch, to which his
 Subjects submit without any Contest; and had
 not those other Pressures that accompanied it
 made it uneasy, there would scarce have been
 found in that Loyal Kingdom any one Person
 disaffected to the Government: But the loss of E-
 states, they supposed to have Right to, has created
 Discontents in many of the Nobility and Gen- [110]
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try, and the frequent and heavy Taxes imposed by the States are no less sensible to those of inferior Degrees; that perhaps the King of *Sweden* has lost as much in the Affection of his Subjects, as he has gain'd in his Revenue; yet this is not like to produce any bad Effects, since the King knows so well how to make himself obeyed, and has such effectual Means in his Hands, not only to restrain any Disorders, but to engage the greatest Part of the Nation to his Interest.

[III] For the Distribution of all Employments of any Value in the Kingdom, belongs to his Majesty; and the Nobility and Gentry, as well as others, are under a greater Necessity than ever, of rendring themselves acceptable to him, that they may get Employments. Besides, his Majesty has lately thought fit to cause all that are in Office to renew their Oath of Fidelity; the Tenor of which has been accommodated to the present Government. The Instructions also of all Governors of Provinces, and other, both Civil and Military Officers, have been revised and renewed: And as a new Body of Laws Ecclesiastical is already published; so the Common Laws of the Kingdom are under Consideration, to be rendred more plain, full, and suitable to the present State of things, according to the Mind of the King, and those that are his Advisers in this Change; yet all this Power and Provision is not by the Court it self thought sufficient to keep an Oppressed People from Disorders; nor would it likely long do so, if the King did not by great Applications and Deferences court the *Clergy*, and by no small Degrees of Compliance with them, not only in Ecclesiastical, but even in Civil Affairs, cultivate their Fidelity and Affection; and this, because the Priests have very great and uncontrollable Interest and Authority among the

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Common People (who only can make Disturbances) and can at their Pleasure inflame, or appease them.

C H A P. X.

[113]

Of the Privy-Council.

THE Ancient Constitution, which gave them the Title of Senators of the Kingdom, gave them also Authority, not only to advise in all Business of Importance, but in some Cases to admonish and over-rule the King, who was not at Liberty to transact any weighty Affairs without the Concurrence of a Majority of the Senate; and though the King chose them, yet the States received their Oath, which rather express'd their Fidelity to the Kingdom in general, than to the King; their Office was for Life, and not only Attempts upon their Person, but Defamation of them, was accounted Treason.

But the *Late Revolution* has effectually delivered the King from this (as they call it) Encroachment upon Royalty and Prerogative, and reduced those Officers to the Title, and proper Duties of Privy-Counsellors; putting it into the King's Power to employ them as he thinks fit, to ask their Counsel as he sees Occasion, and to lay such of them aside, as he finds convenient, which his Majesty accordingly practises; some of them being laid aside, and the remainder, together with those the King hath added to them, are dispers'd into various Employments, and very rarely meet in a Body; his Majesty transacting all Affairs, both Domestick and Foreign, with the proper Officers, to whom they are immediately

[115] entrusted, without the Participation of the whole Council. The Number of Privy-Counsellors is at present about Eighteen, each of them has a Salary of 300*l.* a Year; and most have other beneficial Employments.

[116]

C H A P. XI.

Of the States of Sueden.

[117] **T**HE Boundless Liberality of the Three last Sessions of the States hath left that Body little more than its Ancient Name, and a Power of Consent to such Impositions as the King's Occasions require, which he chuses rather to receive through their Hands, than employ his Authority in a Matter so apt to administer occasion of Discontent: Their usual time of Assembly, is once in three Years, or oftner, if the Affairs of the Kingdom require it. The Letters for calling them together, are sent to the Governors of Provinces, who thereupon write to each Nobleman and Gentleman in their Province, and to the Bishops, who cause the same to be published in all Churches.

The Body of the Nobility and Gentry are represented by one of each Family, of which there are about a Thousand in *Sueden*, and with them the Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, and one Captain of each Regiment sit and vote.

For the Clergy, besides the Bishops and Superintendents in each Rural Deanery, or Ten Parishes, one is chosen, and maintained at the Charge of his Electors; these make a Body of about Two Hundred.

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The Representatives of the Burghers are chosen by the Magistrates and Common-Council of each Corporation, of which *Stockholm* sends Four, others Two, and some One, who make about One Hundred and Fifty.

The Peasants of each District chuse one of their own Quality to appear for them, whose Charges they bear, and give him Instructions in such Matters as they think need Redress. They are about 250. [118]

Their first meeting, (when at *Stockholm*) is in a large Room in the Castle, called the *Hall* of the Kingdom, where his Majesty being seated on a Throne; and the Privy-Counsellors sitting at some Distance, the President of the Chancery makes them a Compliment in the King's Name, and then a Secretary reads his Majesty's Proposals to them, in which they are acquainted with the State of Affairs since their Recess, and the present occasion of their Advice and Assistance. To which, first, the Marshal of the Nobility, who is chosen by the King, returns an Answer, and kisses the King's Hand; and after him, the Archbishop in the Name of the Clergy; the first Burgher-Master of *Stockholm*, for the Burghers, and one of the Peasants for his Brethren. They then separate into Four several Houses, and chuse a Secret Committee, composed of an equal Number of each Body, who receive from the King's Ministers such further Informations of his Majesty's Pleasure, as are not thought fit to be communicated in Publick, and thereupon prepare such Matters as are to be proposed to the several Bodies. In each House Matters are concluded by Majority of Voices; and if one or more of these Bodies differ in Opinion from the rest, they are either brought over by Persuasions, or the Point remains unconcluded. [119]

When the Affairs proposed by the King are finished, [120]

nished, they then insinuate their Grievances, each Body severally, to which the King returns such Answers as he thinks fit; and to each Member of the three Inferior Bodies an Authentick Copy is delivered, as well of the general Conclusion made by the whole States, as of the King's Answer to the Grievances of his respective Body, which he carries home to his Electors.

[121]

C H A P. XII.

Of the Revenue of the Kingdom.

THE standing Revenues of the Kingdom of *Sweden* arise from Crown-Lands, Customs, Poll-Money, Tythes, Copper and Silver-Mines, Proceedings at Law, and other less considerable Particulars; which are calculated in all to near a Million of Pounds a Year; of which the Lands make above One Third, and the Customs almost a Fourth. The Poll-Money is paid only by the Peasants; each of which above Sixteen, and under Sixty, pays about Twelve-pence a Year.

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In the Treasury-Chamber, a President (now Baron *Fabian Wrede*) with Four Counsellors, and other Officers sit, and act as a Court of Justice, in such Matters as relate to the King's Revenue; but they make no Assignments, that being the Business of the *Contoir* of State, in which the Commissary, in Conjunction with the President, dispose of all Payments, but yet not without Orders immediately from the King. At the Beginning of every Year they make a Calculation of what is likely to come in, and what will remain above the ordinary Charge, which they lay before his Majesty, and receive his Orders what Debts shall first be paid. The greatest part
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of the King's Money passes thro' the Bank, and thereby saves the Charge of Officers to receive and pay it; there being between the *Contoir* of State and the Bank, only one *Rent-Master*, (as they stile him) who keeps Account with them both, and gives Assignments according to the Orders he receives.

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The Revenue is supposed at present to exceed the ordinary Charge of the Crown; and the King having lately had Three several extraordinary Contributions, and vast Forfeitures from the faulty Ministers of State, as also great Advantages in Recovering the Debts due to the Crown, would have his Coffers well fill'd, if the Building of Ships, and paying of Debts contracted in the last War, had not drain'd them in some Measure. In 1686. it was told the States, in the King's Name, That in Six Years Time his Majesty had paid Debts to above Two Millions of Pounds, (tho' many of them were paid with little Money,) besides the Building of about Thirty Ships: And yet 'tis generally believed the King is not ill provided with Ready Cash: And there is great Necessity for such Provision, to supply any pressing Occasion, since the Credit of *Sueden* is very low Abroad; and at Home the ordinary Taxes are so high, that the People cannot long furnish any Additional and Extraordinary Assistances; that as the Crown has resumed all former Liberalities, and with Rigor exacted its utmost Right, so it must chiefly depend upon those Funds; little being to be expected from the People, and no Credit from Abroad in Case of Extremity, since those that have formerly trusted the Crown have been so very ill used; and neither the States of the Kingdom, if they should interpose their Engagements, are in a Condition to make them good; nor can any Dependance

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[125] pendance be made upon the Security either of the Crown-Lands, or any other Branch of the Revenue, since the late Resumption of those Lands, and Revocation of such Securities, have destroy'd all future Faith.

C H A P. XIII.

[126] *Of the Forces of Sueden.*

[127] **T**HE Reputation gain'd, and the Conquests made by *Sueden* in this and the last Age, has not so much been owing to its Native Strength, as to Foreign Assistance of *Germans, French, English,* and especially *Scots*, of whom they have used great Numbers in all their Wars with *Moscovy, Poland, Germany,* and *Denmark*; and by them the Art of War and Military Discipline has been by Degrees introduced into this Nation, that in former Times had only the Advantage of Courage and Numbers: For tho' the *Original Constitution* of the Countrey, and its Division into Hundreds, and other larger Portions, that still retain *Military* Names, seems to have been the Work of Armies; and the frequent Expeditions of the *Goths*, and other Inhabitants of these Parts, shew, That in all Ages they were addicted to War and Violence; yet it was in a disorderly and tumultuous Manner; their Infantry always consisting of unexperienc'd Peasants, raised for the Occasion, and disbanded as soon as it was over. The *Feudal* Laws indeed (which are supposed to have had their Birth amongst these People) provided for a Competent Number of Cavalry;

valry; all Estates of the Nobility and Gentry being held by Knights Service: And while the Kingdom was *Elective*, the Kings were bound to maintain some Forces of Horse, out of the Revenues of the Crown. But this Establishment had been in a great Measure corrupted, and the Kingdom so shatter'd with *Domestick* Broils, that it made a very inconsiderable Figure; and was [12] little known in *Europe* till the Crown became *Hereditary*, and the Interest of the Royal Family concerned in the Strength and Prosperity of the Nation. Since that Time, the standing Forces of the Kingdom have been augmented, yet not so effectually established as its Necessities required: For it generally happen'd, that the Nobility and Gentry were so backward in Fitting out their Horse, and the Levies of Foot not being to be made without the Consent of the Peasants, in the Assembly of the States, it was so hardly obtain'd, that the Regiments were very thin, and Recruits extreme difficult; nor were the Officers Salaries so punctually paid, as to enable them to be in Readiness on all Occasions.

To remedy these Inconveniencies, the present King, on whom the States had conferr'd an *Absolute Power*, to put the *Militia* into such a Method as he should think fit, has made such Regulations in all the Particulars relating to this Matter, as were requisite to bring it to Perfection. [129]

The new *Injunctions* he has made about the *Cavalry*, that the Nobility and Gentry furnish, are so exact, that 'tis not in their Power to put either the Man or the Horse, that are once Listed, to other Employments than what are there specified, but must have them in a continual Readiness whenever they are call'd upon, with such Arms and Equipage as his Majesty hath directed. In default of which, severe Penalties are inflicted, and

and the Estates they hold by that Service subject to Confiscation.

[130]

For the *Infantry*, the King has taken the like Care: And whereas formerly no Levies could be made but by Consent of the States; and that but by small Parcels at a time, and with such Disturbance, that on those Occasions 'twas usual for half the Peasants to run into the Woods, and other Hiding-places, to escape being made Soldiers; this has been remedied by the King's Commissioners, who have distributed the *Infantry* of each Province proportionably to the Number of Farms; each of which of the Value of about 60 or 70*l.* a Year (not being appropriated to the Officers, or other peculiar Services) is charged with one Foot-Soldier, who receives from the Farmer Diet, Lodging, ordinary Cloaths, and about Twenty Shillings a Year in Money; or else, a little Wooden House is built for him at the Farmer's Charge; who must also furnish him with as much Hay as will keep a Cow in Winter, and Pasturage in Summer, and Plow and Sow for him such a Parcel of Ground as will afford him Bread. They that are marry'd, (as many of them are) generally accept this latter Condition: The unmarried Soldiers usually abide with the Farmer, but are not bound to do him any Service without Wages. When they have once taken the Peasants Money, and are listed in the King's Service, they can never quit it so long as they are able to serve, and if they desert, are punished with Death. The first Institution of this Method was very burdensome to the Peasants, who were at great Charge to hire their Men, which cost them 10, and sometimes 20*l.* a-Piece; and the same they must do whenever their Soldier dies. This in Peaceable Times will not be so chargeable as it

[131]

[132]

is in Times of War ; when Men will be unwilling to serve, and Recruits more frequently needed. And as this is Part of the Project hitherto unexperienc'd, so most believe it will be found very difficult, if not impracticable.

As all the common Soldiers are thus provided for at the Country's Charge, so all Officers, both of Horse and Foot, are maintained by the King, who hath appropriated so much of the Lands lately reunited, or formerly belonging to the Crown, to that Purpose. So that every Officer has a Convenient House, and Competent Portion of Land to live upon, situate in that Part of the Country where the Regiment he belongs to is quartered ; as also the Rent of so many other Farms as make up his Pay ; which tho' it be somewhat less than formerly, yet being punctually paid, either in Money, Corn, or other Commodities, they find it more profitable, than when they were to solicit for it at the Treasury.

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A Colonel of *Foot* has, of these Lands, the Yearly Rent of about 300*l.* and the rest proportionably ; which amounts to about 2500*l.* a Year, for all the Officers, both Upper and Under, of One Foot-Regiment. And there being in *Sueden*, *Finland* and *Liesland*, 28 Regiments of Foot under this Establishment, the Maintenance of all the Officers belonging to them, costs the King about 7000*l.* a Year : What Charge the Cloathing of the Common Soldiers once in Two or Three Years, their Arms, and such other Necessaries may put the King to, cannot be so easily computed.

[134]

The Officers of *Horse* are provided for after the same manner, with such large Allowance as is requisite. There are Fifteen Regiments of *Horse* thus established, and the Maintenance of

their Officers is computed to be about 80000*l.* a Year, all which arises from the Rents of Crown-Lands, as do also the Wages of *Civil* Officers in the Country, who have Farms annex'd to their Employments, in the same manner as the *Militia*.

The Laws the King hath made for maintaining this Constitution are very exact and particular, and provide with great Caution, that neither the Peasants shall be oppress'd, nor the Lands and Houses ruin'd. To which end all such [135] Lands are Yearly visited, and the Possessor compell'd to make such Repairs as are found needful. And as every Officer upon his first coming to such an Estate, subscribes an Inventory of it, so upon Advancement he cannot take Possession of another Charge, till he hath put that Estate into as good a Condition as he found it; and in case of Death, his Heirs cannot inherit till that be done.

In Times of Peace, all Trespasses and Crimes committed by the Soldiery fall ordinarily under the Cognizance of a Civil Magistrate, who has the same Authority over them as over the rest of the King's Subjects; except when they are encamped, or in Garrison, or any way under *flying Colours*: In all which Cases, as also in all Matters that relate solely to their Profession, their Officers have Jurisdiction over them, without [136] whose Leave a private Soldier is not permitted to lodge out of his Quarters, nor be absent a Day from the Parish he belongs to. The Inferior Officers cannot be absent from their Charge but by the Colonel's Permission; nor Captains, and those above them, without the King's Leave. And the good Effect of the Officers constant Residence upon their respective Charges, appears in the quiet and peaceable Behaviour of the Soldiers,

Soldiers, who have not hitherto broke out into any Enormities, nor given the common People any great Occasion of Complaint.

To keep them in Discipline, each Company meets, and is Exercised once a Month, and every Regiment once or twice a Year, at which times only they wear the King's Cloaths, which at their Return, are carefully laid up in the Churches.

For their Government in Time of War, the King hath lately caused the Articles of War to be reviewed and printed, together with a new Establishment of Courts Martial, and Instructions for the *Auditors General*, and other Officers concern'd in the Ministration of Justice. [137]

And for his Majesty's Information on all Occasions, a Book hath been lately made, specifying the Names of every Military Officer in the King's Army, the Time when they first came into the Service, and by what Steps they have *risen*, by which means, at one view, his Majesty knows the Merit and Services of any Officer.

The Forces in *Pomerania* and *Bremen*, as also the Regiment of Foot-Guards, are not under this Establishment, but are paid in Money.

The whole Body of the King of Sweden's Forces, according to the best and most exact Account, is as follows: [138]

The Establish'd Militia in Sweden,

<i>Finland</i> and <i>Liefland</i> , are,	Men
Cavalry 15 Regiments, is	17000
Infantry 28 Regiments, is	35000
Foot-Guards 1 Regiment,	2000
Forces in <i>Pomeren</i> and <i>Bremen</i> 6 Re- } giments, is	6000
In all, 50 Regiments,	60000

Each Regiment ordinarily consists of 1200 Men, (but some of more) of which 96 are Officers; and such Care is taken to keep them compleat, that it very seldom happens, that 20 Men at a time are wanting in a Regiment; and as they are always in a Readiness, so a great Body of them may quickly be brought together, especially towards the Borders of *Denmark* and *Norway*, where in twenty Days Time the King of *Sueden* can have an Army of 20000 Men.

[139] Above the ordinary Establishment, the King hath annex'd to each Regiment about twenty supernumerary Farms, to answer any extraordinary Accidents of Fire, &c. and to furnish a Subsistence for such Officers, as are past Service.

For common Soldiers that Age or Wounds have rendred unfit for War, there is one general Hospital, which has a good Revenue; and besides that, every Officer that is advanced, pays to it a Sum of Money proportionable to the Charge he arises to. A Colonel pays 100 Crowns, and others in Proportion.

[140] Besides the Arms in the Hands of the Militia, there is a considerable Magazine at *Stockholm*, and another at the Castle of *Fencopingb*, towards the Borders of *Denmark*; and these, as Occasion serves, are furnish'd from a considerable Iron-work at *Oerbro* in *Nerwia*, which is continually employed in making Arms of all Sorts. In the Castle of *Fencopingb*, a Train of Artillery stands always in Readiness. This is the sole Inland Fortress in *Sueden*, which less needs such Artificial Strengths, as well for other Reasons, as because Nature in very many Places has provided it with such Passes, as that a handful of Men may defend against a great Army.

On the Borders of *Norway*, beside some small Forts, that keep the Passages over the Mountains, there

there is the Castle of *Babunz* situate upon a Rock in the midst of a deep River, but overlookt by the Rocks near it.

The City of *Gottenburgh* is a well fortified Place, but wholly commanded by the Neighbouring Hills. [141]

The Town of *Marstrand*, and the Castle of *Elfsburgh*, lie towards the Sea: On that side towards *Denmark* are *Waerburgh*, *Halmstad*, *Landscrone* and *Malmo*, Places of good Defence. Upon the *Baltick* Shore are *Carlescrone* and *Calmar*, with two small Forts at the Entrance of the River leading to *Stockholm*. The Northern Parts are covered with *Lapland*, the Borders of *Finland*, towards *Russia*, with vast Woods and Morasses, and in some Parts with Castles and Forts. In *Liefland*, besides *Riga*, *Revel* and *Narva*, which are very strong Places, there are several considerable Fortresses.

C H A P. XIV.

[142]

Of the Trade of Sweden.

TH O' *Sweden* has in all times furnish'd *Europe* with those necessary Commodities it abounds with, yet either the Warlike Temper, the Idleness or Ignorance of the Inhabitants, has formerly kept them from being much concern'd in Trade, and given Strangers the Management and Advantage of it, which for a long time, the *Hans* Towns, situate on the *Baltick* Sea, monopolized, till the Seven Provinces of the *Netherlands* were Erected into a *Republick*, and became Sharrers with them: Before that time very little Iron was made in *Sweden*; but the Oar, being run into
Pigs,

[143] Pig, was carried to *Dantzick*, and other Parts of *Prussia*, and there forged into Bars ; for which reason the Countrey-Smiths in *England* call Foreign Iron *Dantsk* or *Spruce* Iron. The Nation owes the greatest Improvements it has made in Trade, to the Art and Industry of some ingenious Mechanicks, that the Cruelty of the Duke *de Alva* drove into these Parts : Their Success invited great Numbers of *Reformed Walloons* to transplant thither, whose Language and Religion remains in the Places they settled in, where they erected Forges and other Conveniences for making of Iron Guns, Wire, and all other Manufactures of Copper, Brass, and Iron, which, for the most Part, are still carried on by their Posterity.

[144] The *Suedish* Navigation was very inconsiderable, till Queen *Christina*, at the Conclusion of the War in 1644, obtained from *Denmark* a Freedom from Customs for all Ships and Goods belonging to *Suedish* Subjects, in their Passage through the *Sound*, and establish'd in her own Dominions that Difference in Customs that still subsists between *Suedish* and *Foreign* Ships, and is in Proportion of 4, 5, 6, the first called *Whole-free*, the second *half*, and the last *Unfree* ; so that where a whole-free *Suedish* Ship pays 400 Crowns, half-free pays 500, and a *Foreign* Vessel 600.

But as great as this Advantage was, it had but little Effect, till the *English* Art of Navigation bridled the *Hollanders*, and opened the Intercourse between *England* and *Sweden*. Since that Time

[145] their Commerce has been much augmented, as well as ours that way, and Goods transported by both, or either Party, according to the various Junctures of Affairs. When *Sweden* has been engaged in a War, the *English* Ships have had the whole Employ ; but in Times of Peace, the Ad-

vantage is so great on the *Suedish* Side, and Merchants so much encourag'd by Freedom in Customs to employ their Ships, that *English* Bottoms cannot be used in that Trade, but only while *Sweden* is unprovided with a Number of Ships sufficient for the Transportation of their own Commodities. Whether it be feasible to lay a Duty upon *Suedish* Ships, importing Goods into *England*, proportionable to what is laid upon Foreign Vessels there, or whether the Matter be of so great Importance as to merit such a Resolution, does not belong to this Discourse to determine. [146]

The chief Commodities *Sweden* vends, are Copper, Iron, Pitch, Tar, Masts, Deals, and Wooden Ware, (besides the Commodities exported from *Liefland*) to the Value of about 700000 *l.* a Year; in return of which they receive from Abroad, Salt, Wines, and Brandy, Cloth, Stuffs, Tobacco, Sugar, Spices, Paper, Linnen, and several other Sorts of Goods, which are supposed commonly to balance their Exportations, and sometimes exceed them.

Their Trade to *Portugal* for Salt is accounted most necessary, as without great Quantities of which they cannot subsist. That with *England* is more beneficial, because it takes off almost half their own Commodities, and brings in near two Thirds of Money for one of Goods. The worst is their *French* Trade, in regard it rather supplies their Vanities, than Necessities, and gives little or no Vent to the Commodities of the Country. [147]

The general Direction of their Trade belongs to the College of Commerce, which consists of the President of the Treasury, and Four Counsellors, who hear Causes of that Nature, and redress any Disorders that happen. The Bank at *Stockholm* is of great Benefit to Trade, as well in regard that the King's Customs for that City are paid in there,

as also that the Merchants ordinarily make Payments to each other, by Bills drawn upon it, which eases them of a great Trouble in Transporting their Money from Place to Place, that would otherwise be very difficult and chargeable.

[148] This Bank is well constituted, and was in very good Credit, whilst it had the States of the Kingdom for its Guarrantees, of which it has now but the Shadow; those States being (and are now stiled) the King's (not Kingdoms) States; so that all its Foundation derives now from the Will and Pleasure of the King, which may on several Occasions diminish not only its own Sufficiency, but also the Confidence of those that make use of it. The Management of the Trade of *Sweden* has always in the main been in the Hands of Strangers, most of the Natives wanting either Capacity or Application, and all them Stocks to drive it; for without Credit from Abroad, they are not able to keep their Iron-works going: And therefore at the Beginning of Winter, they usually

[131] make Contracts with the *English*, and other Foreigners, who then advance considerable Sums, and receive Iron in Summer; were it not for this Necessity, Foreign Merchants would have but little Encouragement, or scarcely Permission to Live and Trade amongst them; and even as the Case stands, their Treatment of them is as rigorous as in any Countrey, occasioned chiefly by the Envy of the Burghers, who cannot with any Patience see a Stranger thrive among them. This is less sensible to *Hollanders* and others, many of whom become Burghers, and the rest by their near Way of Living are less subject to Envy; but is more especially the Case of the *English* Merchants, who find it not their Interest to become Burghers, and usually live somewhat too high.

The Interest of *England* in the Trade of *Sueden* may be computed, by the Necessity of their Commodities to us, and the Vent of ours there. Their Copper, Iron, Tar, Pitch, Masts, &c. cannot be had elsewhere, except from *America*, whence it has been supposed such Supplies may be furnished; and if so, this Consideration ought in reason to have an Influence on the *Suedish* Counsels, and engage them to make the *English* trade with them as easy as possible, that the Merchants be not driven upon new Designs. [150]

As to our Importations thither, it has already been said, that they scarce amount to one third of what we export from thence, and consist chiefly of Cloth, Stuffs, and other Woollen Manufactures, of which has been formerly vended yearly there to the Value of about 50000 *l.* Besides these, Tobacco, *New-Castle* Coals, Pewter, Lead, Tin, Fruits, and Sugar, with several other of our Commodities are sold at this Market; as also good Quantities of Herrings from *Scotland*, with other of their Wares, that in all we are supposed to vend Goods to about 100000 *l.* a Year, whereof if any more than half be paid for, it is extraordinary. But the making of Cloth in *Sueden* to supply the Army, &c. which has been formerly endeavoured without Success, being now encouraged and assisted by the Publick, and undertaken by some *Scots* and others, has of late, and does now prove a great Hindrance to the Vent of our Cloth there. And to favour this Undertaking, *English* Cloth is now, (unless it be such finer Cloths as cannot be made here) clogg'd with such excessive Duties, as render the Importation of it impracticable. These Undertakers have got Workmen from *Germany*, and some from *England*, and besides the *German* Wooll they use, they receive great Quantities from *Scotland* (supposed to

be purchased out of *England*) without which they cannot work. Yet as at present, the *English* Trade in *Sweden* is of the Importance above-mention'd, notwithstanding the Abatements aforesaid, it is however considerable, and will be so, while their Commodities continue to be necessary, and those that are concerned in it, will deserve as they need, Protection and Encouragement.

[153] The last Treaty of Commerce between the Two Nations, expired several Years ago; and that of an older Date neither suits the present State of Things, nor has been thought by the *Suedes* to subsist; tho' now for their own Interest they insist upon the contrary; accordingly their Treatment of the *English* is only in reference to their own Convenience. And as the Subject of former Complaints still remains, so new Burthens are frequently imposed upon them: Sometimes they have demanded of Merchants that were leaving the Countrey, a sixth Part of the Estates they had got in it, and arrested their Effects upon that Account. And besides others that more directly concern their Trade, the quartering of Soldiers, and paying of Contributions has been exacted for some Years, and sometimes the *English* forced to submit to it.

[154] In the Year 1687, upon their Petition to the King, for Redress of these Impositions which were then very high; upon some above 50*l.* upon others 40, 30, &c. besides that such of them as kept House had Soldiers quartered upon them, some 3, 6, or 8; in answer to their Petition, a *Placaet* was published, declaring that they should be exempt from those Payments; but withal, that no *Foreign* Merchant should continue to Trade in *Sweden* above Two Months in a Year, unless he would become a Burgher. In pursu-
ance

ance of which Resolution, their Ware-houses were shut up for some Time, and the *Suedes* seem resolved to proceed to Extremity : but have not put that Resolution generally in Execution, tho' they seem to wait for an Opportunity, and now and then they try it upon particular Persons, to see how Foreign Princes will take it. [155]

The Law that exacts the third Part of such *Foreign* Merchants Estates as die in *Sueden*, has not in Effect been so beneficial to the *Suedes* as frightful to the Merchants, who (especially the *English*) for that and other Reasons, never think of marrying, and settling there, so long as their Affairs are in good Order, and they in a Condition to return Home with a Competent Estate and Credit ; upon which Account *England* seems to be less concerned to endeavour the Repeal of that Law, it being more useful to have *Sueden* a Nursery for young Merchants, than a Place of Settlement for those that have got Estates.

C H A P. XV.

Of the Suedish Conquest.

[156]

THE ancient Expeditions of the *Goths*, and the Kingdoms they erected in *France*, *Spain*, *Italy* and elsewhere, upon the Ruins of the *Roman* Empire, have little Connexion with the present State of the Countrey, and only shews, that their Nation was then much more Populous and Powerful, than it has been in later Times, which is generally ascrib'd to the Use of *Polygamy* among them, while they were Heathens ; but the Con-

quests which continue to be beneficial to *Sueden* at this Day, are of a much later Date.

[157]. For it was not till the Year 1560, that the *Suedes* got Footing in *Liefland*, when the *Knights Templers*, who were Masters of those Parts, being overthrown by the *Muscovites*, King *Erick* of *Sueden* was invited by the Inhabitants of *Revell*, and the Country adjacent, to take them into his Protection, which he consented to; and the Door being thus open'd, the Crown of *Sueden* has by degrees wrested from the *Poles* and *Muscovites* the greatest part of *Liefland*, and some Provinces of *Russia* adjoining to it; Countries of inestimable Value to *Sueden*, as, which both cover it from the Incurfions of the *Poles* and *Muscovites*, and furnish it with plentiful Supplies of Corn and other Commodities; besides the Benefit it reaps by the vast Trade of those Parts. On the Side of

[158] *Denmark*, besides *Yempterland* and *Hercadale*, Two Northerly Provinces lying opposite to *Norway*, they have recovered the rich Countries of *Schoonen*, *Halland* and *Blecking*, which join to the Body of *Sueden*, and gave the *Danes*, while they possess'd them, free Entrance into the very Heart of the Country. They have also got from the *Danes* the Territory of *Babnus*, which prevents all Inroads from that Side of *Norway*. These, together with the Countries of *Pomerania* and *Bremen*, are so considerable, that their Writers own, that the present Royal Family hath augmented the Kingdom near one half; only with this Disadvantage, that all the Neighbours of *Sueden* are thereby disobliged; and watch all Opportunities to retrieve their Losses; so that *Sueden* can never firmly depend upon the Friendship of *Denmark*, *Poland*, *Muscovy*, or any other Neighbouring

[159] Princes.

C H A P. XVI.

Of the Interest of Sueden.

THE great Domestick Interest of *Sueden* has been of late thought to consist in the Advancement of the King's Revenue, and Authority at Home, in order to make him more formidable Abroad ; so that the Nation has had no Interest distinct from the King's ; as the King on the other side would seem to have an inseparable Connexion with the Prosperity of his Subjects in general, and most especially of the Yeomanry or Peasants, who are accounted the *Basis* of the Kingdom, rather than the Trading Part ; therefore though the Peasants have not been spared from bearing a considerable Share of the common Burthen, yet more Care has been taken to make it sit easy upon them than upon the rest, and they delivered from the Oppression of their Fellow Subjects, which they formerly labour'd under : The Encouragement of Trade and Manufactures is also the King's Care, and great Wonders are expected from it ; but doubtless there is much more in their Imaginations, than will ever be found in the Effect.

[160]

It is also found the King's Interest to keep the Nobility and Gentry very low. In Matters of Religion his Majesty has no other Interest than to maintain the present Establishment, and keep the Clergy to the due Performance of their Duty, which admits of little or no Difficulty.

[161]

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In general, the chief Domestick Interest of the King of *Sweden* is to preserve the Government in its present State, and secure it such to his Successors; it being constituted so much to the Advantage of the Royal Family, that in that regard it can hardly be bettered by any Change.

In relation to Foreign Affairs, it is apparently the Interest of *Sweden*, to avoid all *Offensive War*, as being already in the quiet Possession of as many conquer'd Provinces on all sides as it can well defend: though more would not displease them, if they could be got with Safety; to maintain a good Correspondence with *Moscow* by a due Observation of the Treaty lately concluded, and endeavour to end the Point of Separation of the Limits, which is the only Matter that can be like to create Trouble on that side with *Poland*.

[162]

Sweden has little Occasion of Difference, or Reason to apprehend any Quarrel; neither does it seem the Interest of *Sweden* to aim at any further Enlargements in *Germany*, but rather to use all good Offices to preserve the Treaty of *Munster*, as the Foundation of its Right to *Pomerania* and *Bremen*; which Provinces are of such Importance to *Sweden*, as rendring it much more considerable to all *Europe* than it would otherwise be, that they will never be parted with, so long as *Sweden* is able to defend them.

The Intercourse with *Denmark* has seldom been friendly, nor have there ever wanted Grounds of Quarrels, when the Conjunctures were favourable; though at present *Sweden* seems to have little Occasion of Misintelligence with that Crown, unless on the account of the State of Affairs Abroad, and the several Interests they have to mind therein: Their Agreement in Point of Trade seems to cement them, but their Emulation in regard of a Mediation, and in other Points, is as
likely

[162]

likely to keep them at a Distance; nor is it at all probable they ever will, or can so far surmount their mutual Distrusts, as actually to take part on the same Side. But in regard of their own Affairs, *Sweden* has gained so much from *Denmark* already, and the Interest of the Trading Part of *Europe* is so much concern'd to hinder it from getting more, that being also inferior to *Denmark* by Sea, it is not probable it will in many Years have any Design of enlarging its Territories farther on that Side, though it has undoubtedly a longing Desire to *Norway*, which would make it the sole Master of all Naval Stores. And *Denmark* is so much weaker at Land, that *Sweden* has no Reason to apprehend it, unless Domestick Confusions do happen, which in all times *Denmark* has been ready to foment, and has frequently profited by them; and it is not very improbable, but it may, in not many Years, have an Opportunity of doing so again; for which Reason especially it is the Interest of *Sweden* to carry fair, and live at Peace with *Denmark*. [164]

In Point of Alliances, the less *Sweden* can depend upon its Neighbours, the more careful it has been to entertain Friendship further from Home, especially with *France*; which first began about 150 Years ago between *Francis* the First, and *Gustavus* the First, and subsisted till of late Years, that the *Emperor's* Party was thought more agreeable to the Nation's Interest, which it has accordingly espoused. [165]

The Friendship of *England* or *Holland*, or both, has ever been accounted indispensibly necessary to *Sweden*, in regard of its Weakness by Sea, neither has *Sweden* hitherto engaged in any War, where both those Nations were Parties: And if such a Case should happen, 'tis not to be doubted but *Sweden* would use all possible means to obtain a Peace;

[166] Feace; for that the Country cannot subsist without a quick Vent of its own Commodities, and continual Supplies of such Necessaries as it must receive from Abroad, of which it is very unusual to make any Provision before-hand, or lay up greater Stores than what one Winter consumes.

C H A P. XVII.

An Extract of the History of Sweden.

[167] **T**HE Original of the *Suedish* Nations which their Historians ascribe to *Magog*, Son of *Japhet*, whose Expedition thither they placed in the Year 88 after the Flood, is built upon such uncertain Conjectures, as neither deserves to be mention'd, nor credited, any more than the Names of the Kings supposed to succeed him, invented by the Writers to fill up the Vacuities of those dark Times, of which other Countries, more likely to have been first Planted, can give so little Account; therefore though the Country might possibly have been early inhabited, yet nothing of Certainty can be known of it, till the coming of *Othinus*, or *Woden*, who was driven out of *Asia* by *Pompey* the Great, about Sixty Years before the Birth of Christ. From this *Woden*, who (as their Histories report) conquer'd *Muscovy*, *Saxony*, *Sweden*, *Denmark* and *Norway*, all *Northern* Nations have been ambitious to derive their Extraction; with him the *Heathenish* Religion, that afterwards prevail'd in the *North*, Witchcraft, and other like Arts

Arts were brought in ; as also the Custom of raising great Heaps of Earth upon the Graves of Persons of Note, and engraving of Funeral Inscriptions upon Rocks and Stones, which yet remain in all Parts of the Country.

To *Woden*, after his Death, Divine Honours were paid, as the God of War ; and as the two first Days of the Week were named after the Sun and Moon, and *Tuesday* after *Tis* or *Disa*, an Ancient Idol, so *Wednesday* had its Name from him, as *Thursday* from *Thor*, and *Friday* from *Frigga*, which Three last were long the chief Objects of the *Northern* Idolatry. The Succession of the Kings after *Woden* is full of Confusion ; the Nation being sometimes parcel'd into several little Kingdoms, sometimes into Two, *Sueden* and *Gotbia* ; often subject to *Denmark* or *Norway*, and sometimes Master of those Countries, as also of others more distant, where the *Goths*, that forsook their Native Soil, happened to plant themselves ; but when, or on what particular Occasions they made those Migrations, is not certainly known, nor how long they had been Abroad when they first began to infest the *Roman* Empire, about 300 Years after Christ. [168]

That the *Saxons*, who were called into *England* about the Year 450, were originally a Colony of *Goths*, is conjectured from the Agreement of their Language, Laws and Customs. But that the *Suedes* and *Goths*, joined with the *Danes* and *Norwegians* in their Invasion of *England*, about the Year 800, we are assured from our own Historians, that expressly mention them, with the Character of Barbarous and *Pagan* Nations, as they then were ; and the same may be concluded from the many *Saxon* Coins, that are frequently found in *Sueden*, and in greater Variety, than in *England*, [169]

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which

which seem to have been the *Dane Gilt*, or Tribute that the Nation then paid.

[170] The *Normans* also, who about that time settled in *France*, were in part Natives of this Country, so that *England*, together with the Miseries that accompanied those Conquests, owes a great part of its Extraction to these People.

But to pass on to Times of more Certainty; it was about the Year 830, that the Emperor *Ludovicus Pius* sent *Ansgarius*, afterwards Archbishop of *Hamburg*, to attempt the Conversion of the *Suedes* and *Goths*, who at first had little or no Success; but in his Second Journey, some Years after, he was better received; and baptized the King *Olaus*, who was afterwards martyred by his Heathen Subjects, and offered in Sacrifice to their Gods; nor did Christianity become the general Religion of *Sueden* till about a Hundred Years after, when it was planted by the *English* Bishops formerly mentioned, sent for thither by another *Olaus*; in whose time the Kingdom of *Sueden* and that of *Gothia* were united, but became afterwards to be separated again, and continued so near Two Hundred Years; when they were again join'd, on Condition that the Two Royal Families should succeed each other by turns, as they did for the Space of One Hundred Years, but not without great Disorders, and much Bloodshed.

This Occasion of Quarrel, which ended in the Extirpation of the *Gothick* Family, was succeeded by another; for *Waldemer*, Son of *Berger*, *Ferle* or *Earl*, who was descended from the Royal Family of *Sueden*, being at that time cho-

1250. sen King, by his Father's Advice, he created his Three Brothers Dukes of

[172] *Finland*, *Sudermanland*, and *Smaland*, with such a Degree of Sovereignty in their respective Dukedoms,

doms, as enabled them to disturb their Brother's Government; who was at last forced to resign the Kingdom to his Brother 1279.

Magnus, which he left to his Son *Berger*, 1290.

who lived in continual Dissention with his Two Brethren, *Erick* and *Waldemar*, till he took them Prisoners, and famish'd them to Death, upon which he was driven out of the Kingdom, and succeeded by Duke *Erick's* Son

Magnus, who was persuaded to suffer his Son *Erick* to be chose King of Sueden 1319.

jointly with himself, as his other Son *Haquinus* was of *Norway*.

Both these Brothers made War upon their Father, who thereupon caused the Eldest to be poisoned, the other *Haquinus*, being reconciled to his Father, married *Margaret*, the Daughter of *Waldemar*, King of *Denmark*, in whose Person the Three Northern Kingdoms were afterwards united. This *Magnus* being deposed for his ill Government made Place for his Sister's Son

[173]

Albert, Duke of *Mechlenburgh*, of whom the *Suedes* were soon weary, and 1363.

offered the Kingdom to *Margaret*, whose Husband *Haquinus* had left her *Norway*, and her Father *Denmark*. King *Albert*, therefore, being beaten in a pitch'd Battel, was taken Prisoner by this

Margaret, who succeeded him, and enacted the *Union* of the Three Crowns 1388.

into a Law; which was ratified by the States of those Kingdoms, but proved much to the Prejudice of *Sueden*, and to the Advantage of *Denmark*, which People had always the Art or Luck to get their King's Favour, and render the *Suedes* and *Norwegians* suspected; conformable to Queen *Margaret's* Advice to her Successor;

[174]

Sueden shall feed you, Norway shall cloath you, and Denmark shall defend you. At her Request the Three Nations chose her young Nephew

Erick of Pomerania, reserving to her
 1336. self the Government during his Minority, which she out-lived, and had time to repent; at last she died of the Plague, in the Year 1412. This *Erick* married *Pbillippa*, the Daughter of *Henry* the IVth of England: Of her their Histories relate, that *Copenhagen* being besieged, and King *Erick* in Despair retreating to a Monastery, she took the Command of the City, and beat the Besiegers, but afterwards having in the King's Absence fitted out a Fleet that was unsuccessful, at his return he so beat and abused her, that she thereby miscarried, and retiring into a Cloyster died soon after.

[175]

The Oppression the *Suedes* lay under from Strangers, and to whom the King committed the Government of Provinces, and the Custody of all Castles, contrary to the Articles of the *Union*, made them at last throw off the Yoke, and renounce their Allegiance to King *Erick*; in whose place they substituted the General of the Kingdom, *Carl Knuteson*, with the Title of *Protector*; which he held about Four Years, till they were perswaded to accept

Christopher of *Barvaria*, whom the
 1440. *Danes* and *Norwegians* had already chosen: His short Reign gave the *Suedes*

[176]

new Disgusts to the *Union*; so that upon his Death they divided themselves, and chose

Carl Knuteson to be their King, who
 1448. had before been their Protector, and remains a memorable Example of the Vicissitude of Fortune. For after he had Reigned Ten Years, he was driven out by a *Danish* Faction,

tion, and retiring to *Dantzick*, was reduced to great Want.

Christian of *Oldenburg*, King of *Denmark* and *Norway*, succeeded him, and 1458. renewed the *Union*; which was soon dissolved. *Christian*, after a Reign of Five Years, being turn'd out,

Carl Knuteson was restored to the Crown; which he held only Three 1463. Years, being over-power'd by a Faction of the Clergy, and forced to forswear the Crown, and retire into *Finland*, where he again fell into Want. Upon his Deposition, his Daughter's Husband [177]

Erick Axelton was made Governor of the Kingdom, which was miserably shatter'd by Factions, of which the Bishops were the greatest Ring-leaders, in Favour of *Christian* of *Denmark*, whom they endeavoured to restore; but their Party being worsted,

Carl Knuteson was the Third Time received King of *Sueden*, and continued 1468. so till his Death; upon which

Steno Sture, a Nobleman of Ancient Family, was made Protector of the 1471. Kingdom; which he defended a long time against King *Christian*, and his Successor to the Crowns of *Denmark* and *Norway*; but was at last forced to give place to

John, who again restored the *Union* of the Three Crowns; but pursuing 1497. his Predecessor's Steps in Oppressing the Nation, and Employing of Strangers, he was soon expell'd the Kingdom, [178]

And *Steno Sture* was again made Protector; and he dying, 1501.

Suanto Sture succeeded in the same
1504. Quality. He had continued Wars with
King *John* all the Time of his Govern-
ment ; which at his Death was conferred on his
Son,

Steno Sture the Younger, who with-
1512. stood the *Danish* Faction which the
Archbishop of *Upsal* headed ; till dying
of a Wound he receiv'd in a Skirmish against the
Danes,

[179] *Christiern*, or *Christian* the II^d King of *Den-
mark* and *Norway*, was advanced to the Crown
of *Sueden*, but behaved himself so tyrannically,
and shed so much innocent Blood, especially of
the Nobility, which he design'd utterly to root
out, that his Reign became intolerable ; and the
whole Nation conspired against him, under the
Conduct of

[180] *Gustavus* the *First*, descended from
1521. the Ancient Kings of *Sueden*, whose
Father had been beheaded, and his Mo-
ther had Two Sisters imprison'd by *Christiern*.
He was at first received Governor of the King-
dom, and Two Years after had the Regal Dig-
nity conferr'd upon him. And as the *Danes* and
Norwegians had also expell'd King *Christiern*, who
had married *Charles* the Vth's Sister, and repair'd
to the Imperial Court for Succour ; which he
could not obtain to any Purpose, being upon his
Landing in *Norway* defeated, and taken Pri-
soner ; in which State he continued to his Death :
Therefore *Gustavus* was freed from all further
Trouble on that Account, and at Liberty to re-
dress the Disorders of the Kingdom, which
were great. His first Contest was with the *Clergy*,
*who had been the Authors of much Confusion in for-
mer Reigns* : To prevent which for the future, he
took all Occasions to diminish their Revenues,
reuniting

reuniting to the Crown all the Lands that had been given to the Church the last Hundred Years; which, together with the *Reformation* of Religion, disquieted the first Ten Years of his Reign, and occasion'd frequent Commotions: Which being over, the Remainder of his Time pass'd without any Disturbance at Home, or Wars Abroad; save only with *Lubeck*, and sometimes with *Moscovy*.

Hitherto the Kingdom of *Sweden* had for several Hundred Years been *Elective*, but was at this Time made *Hereditary* to the Male Issue of *Gustavus*, in a Right Line of Succession; with Reservation, that in Default of such Issue, the *Right of Election* should return to the Estates. *Gustavus*, by his Three Wives, had Four Sons, and several Daughters. His Eldest Son, *Erick*, was to succeed to the Crown; *John* was made Duke of *Finland*; *Magnus*, Duke of *Ostrogothia*; and *Charles*, Duke of *Sudermanland*: whereby those Provinces were in a manner dismember'd from the Crown: An Error in Policy that *Sweden* has so oft smarted for, that they have since made solemn Resolutions never to be guilty of it again. Thus having, in his Reign of Thirty six Years, brought the Kingdom into such a flourishing Condition, as it had not seen in many Ages, and entail'd a Crown upon his Family, in which it still continues, he left it to his Son

[181]

Erick, who was thereby hinder'd from prosecuting his intended Voyage to *England*, with Hopes to marry Queen *Elizabeth*. He Reigned Nine Years; Five of which he kept his Brother *John* close Prisoner, upon Suspicion of his designing to supplant him; as he finally did, but not before *Erick* his making a Peasant's Daughter his Queen, and by several Cruel and Dishonourable Actions had lost the

Affecti-

[182]

Affections of all his Subjects; so that he was without much Difficulty deposed, and condemned to a perpetual Prison, where he ended his
 [183] Life. Upon his Deposition, the Crown came to *John III.* notwithstanding the States 1568. of the Kingdom had engaged their future Allegiance to King *Erick's* Son, that he had by the Queen before Marriage. The War with *Moscovy*, which began in King *Erick's* Time, about *Liesland*, was carried on by this King with good Success, and several Places taken; to which not only *Moscovy*, but *Poland* and *Denmark* also pretended; for as the *Knights Templers* had transferr'd their Right to *Liesland* upon *Poland*; so the *Muscovites* had agreed to deliver it to *Magnus*, Duke of *Holstein*, the King of *Denmark's* Brother; in Consideration of a small Acknowledgement to the *Czar of Muscovy*, as the Supream Lord: So that Four great Nations
 [184] claimed this Countrey at once, which possibly might facilitate the *Suedish* Conquests.

This Prince's Reign was disquieted by his Attempt to alter the *Established Religion*, in which he made considerable Progress; but was sometimes in doubt, whether he should endeavour an Union with the *Latin* or *Greek* Church; to the former of which he at last declared himself; but could not prevail with his Subjects to follow his Example. He kept his Brother *Erick* Ten Years in Prison, and then thought it necessary for Safety to have him poyson'd, according to the Advice which it is said the States of the Kingdom had given.

[185] His Brother *Magnus* did not minister any Cause of Suspicion, being disturbed in his Brain, and incapable of having any Design.

But his Brother *Charles* gave him sufficient Occasion of Jealousy, and it was not without great Difficulty,

difficulty, that things were kept from coming to an extremity between them.

After a Reign of Thirty Six Years King *John* died by the Fault of an ignorant Apothecary, there being then no Physicians in *Sweden*; to him succeeded his Son

Sigismund, whose Mother was *Catherine*, a Princess of the *Jagellan* Family 1592. in *Poland*: To which Crown, *Sigismund* had been Elected Five Years before his Father died: His Brother *John* was in his Minority; so that his Uncle *Charles* had the Government of the Kingdom, till *Sigismund* came from *Poland* to be Crown'd in *Sweden*; which was not till about a Year after his Father's Decease. His Coronation was retarded some Months, by the Difficulties that arose about the Points of Religion, and the Confirmation of Privileges: All which were at last accommodated, and the King after a Years stay in *Sweden*, returned to *Poland*, leaving the Kingdom in great Confusion, which daily increas'd. [186]

So that at his return some Years after, he was met by his Uncle at the Head of an Army, which defeated the Forces the King brought with him. Whereupon an Accommodation being patch'd up, he returned to *Poland*, leaving his Uncle to manage the Government. Which Post he held, till the States being weary of *Sigismund*, and having in vain brought him to consent to his Son's Advancement to the Crown, which his Brother *John* also refused: They conferr'd it upon his Uncle *Charles* the 9th, who thereby became engaged in a War with *Poland*, as he was already with *Muscovy*; the Scene of both being in *Liefland*, where the *Suedes* lost Ground, till the Affairs of *Muscovy* fell into such Con-

[187]

1604.

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fusion,

fusion, that they were forced to give *Sueden* a Peace, that they might have its Assistance against the *Poles* and *Tartars*; which was granted upon Terms very advantageous for *Sueden*, and sent under the Conduct of Count *Jacob de la Gardie*, who did *Muscovy* great Service; but the *Muscovites* failing to perform the Conditions stipulated, he broke with them, and took the City [188] of *Novogrod*, and disposed the Inhabitants, with others of the Neighbouring Provinces, to desire Prince *Charles*, (*Philip* the King's younger Son) to be their *Czar*; which was so long in treating about, that the Opportunity was lost.

The Year before this King's Death, a War broke out with *Denmark*; in which State he left the Kingdom to his Son

Gustavus Adolphus, who having ended 1611. the War with *Denmark*, by the Mediation of *James* the 1st, of *England*, applied himself to that in *Liesland* and *Muscovy*: To the Borders of which he sent his Brother, not with an Intention to procure his Establishment in that Throne, which he rather aimed at for himself; but to induce the fortified Places adjacent to [189] *Finland* and *Liesland*, to accept of *Swedish* Garrisons in Prince *Charles Philip's* Name, which succeeded in a great Measure, till another was chosen *Czar*; with whom, after various Success on both Sides, a Peace was concluded by the Mediation of *England* and *Holland*; by which *Sueden*, besides part of *Liesland*, got the Country of *Ingermenland*, and the Province of *Kexholm*, with several fortified Places, and wholly shut out the *Muscovites* from the *Eâst* Sea.

The *Polish* War, that had some short Intervals of Truces, was of a longer continuance, and no less beneficial to *Sueden*; which, in the Course of

of it, took *Riga*, and all other Places the *Poles* had in *Liefland*, except only one Fort, and thence carried the War into *Prussia* with the like Success, till at last by the Interposition of *England*, *France*, [190] &c. a Truce was concluded for six Years.

This gave *Gustavus* Leisure to engage in the *German War*, to which he was both provoked by the *Emperor*, and encouraged by others. The Year following he began that Expedition, and on *June 24.* arriving in the Mouth of the *Oder*, he Landed his little Army that consisted of Sixteen Troops of Horse, and Ninety-two Companies of Foot, making about Eight Thousand Men, which, besides other Additions, was augmented by Six Regiments of *English* and *Scotch* under Duke *Hamilton*, but more by the King's incredible Success.

Upon his first Approach, *Stetin* and all *Pomerania* fell into his Hands. The Year *Sept. 7.* [191] following having joined the *Electors* of *1631.* *Saxony*, he gave the *Emperor's* Army under General *Tilly*, a total Overthrow near *Liepsig*: Whence he traversed *Franconia*, the *Palatinate*, *Bavaria*, &c. till the next Year at the Battel of *Lutzen* (where his Army was again victorious) he was treacherously kill'd, (as 'tis believed) by *Francis Albert*, Duke of *Saxon Lawemburg*; not only to the great Joy of the *Imperialists*, but of *France* and other his Friends, who envied and feared the farther Increase of his Greatness. By his Death the Crown fell to his Daughter,

Christina, a Princess of Five Years old, in [192] whose Favour her Father had gained the States of the Kingdom to alter the *Hereditary Union*, as 'tis stiled, which restrained the Succession to the *Male Line*. In her Minority the Chancellor *Axel Oxenstiern* had the Direction of the *Swedish Affairs*

in *Germany*; where the War was prosecuted with Variety of Success, but much to the Advantage of *Sweden*; which was possess'd of above a Hundred fortified Places, and had an Army exceeding 100000 Men, when Prince *Charles Gustave* was Generalissimo; a little before the Conclusion of the Treaty of *Munster*, by which *Sweden* obtained for its Satisfaction, the Dukedoms of [193] *Pomerania*, *Bremen* and *Verden*, with the City of *Wismar*, and a Right of Session to Vote in the Diets of the *Empire*, and Circle of *Lower Saxony*, as also the Sum of Five Millions of Crowns. The Queen had for several Years entertained a Resolution to quit the Crown, which she at last effected; and after having procured Prince *Charles Gustavus*, to be declared *Hereditary Prince* (whom the States would gladly have had the Queen married, but neither he nor she were inclined to it) with much Solemnity she divested her self of the Crown, and released her [194] *Jan. 6.* Subjects from their Allegiance, which 1654. the same Day was conferred upon

Charles Gustavus, who the Year following made War upon *Poland*, to revenge the Affront done to him, in protesting against his Admission to the Crown; his Progress at first surprized not only [194] *Poland*, but alarm'd all *Europe*; for in three Months time he had taken all *Prussia*, except *Dantzick*; a great Part of *Lithuania*, the Cities of *Warsaw*, *Cracow*, and other Places in the *Greater* and *Lesser Poland*. Most of the People of those Provinces swearing Allegiance to him, as being Deserted by King *Casimir*, who was fled into *Silesia*: But this Career of Prosperity did not long continue; the first Consternation being over, the *Poles* were as ready to fall from him, as they had been to embrace his Party; besides, the *Emperor*, *Moscovy*, and

and *Holland*, became his Enemies, as also *Denmark*; which gave the King of *Sueden* an honourable Occasion of quitting *Poland*, where he could not long have subsisted. Having therefore left his Brother, Prince *Adolph*, Governor of *Prussia*, he hastened to *Denmark*, which he soon reduced to a Necessity of Buying Peace at the Price of the Provinces of *Schonen*, *Halland*, and *Bleaking*, which was concluded in the following Spring, but broke out again in few Months.

[195]

The King of *Sueden* unexpectedly landing an Army the following Summer in *1658.* *Seelandt*, where he took the Castle of *Cronenburgh* at the Entrance of the *Sound*, but had not the like Success at *Copenhagen*, which was besieged and stormed in vain; and being the following Summer relieved by a Fleet from *Holland*, the Siege was turn'd into a Blockade, and continued so till *Charles Gustave*, having by his bold and successful Attempts in six Years time drawn upon *Sueden* the Enmity of almost all *Europe*, was taken away by a Fever, and left the Crown to his Son

Charles XI. the present King, whose Ministers obtain'd Peace with *Poland*, *1660.* *Moscovy*, the Emperor, *Brandenburgh*, *Holland* and *Denmark*, upon Honourable Conditions, which continued till it was interrupted by the late War; of which an Account has been given already.

[196]

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